

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 25-0183.01 Brita Darling x2241

HOUSE BILL 25-1078

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN NATURAL RESOURCES.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov/>.)

Wildfire Matters Review Committee. Section 1 of the bill authorizes the Colorado cooperative extension service (extension) to expand and implement outreach programs and initiatives recommended by the Colorado forest health council for the purpose of increasing awareness of and interest in areas of forestry, wildland fire, and natural resources (forest health) in youth and young adults. The outreach programs and initiatives may be implemented for the 2025-26 state fiscal year through the 2027-28 state fiscal year and may include, in part:

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

HOUSE
3rd Reading Unamended
April 28, 2025

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
April 25, 2025

- The expansion of 4-H programs and curricula in forest health;
- Partnerships with the forest health industry, local school districts, higher education institutions, conservation districts, the Colorado state forest service, the division of fire prevention and control in the department of public safety (division), and others to facilitate career and workforce readiness and entry into forest health careers;
- Outreach and support to youth and young adults relating to 2- and 4-year programs and certificates in forest health;
- Industry partnerships and scholarships for forest health certifications, such as wildland fire or chain saw certifications;
- Paid natural resources summer internships focused on forestry for high school students, including the potential to earn high school credit for completing the internship; and
- Paid internships in forest health careers offered by the extension, with mentoring of young adults by the extension, Colorado state university, the Colorado state forest service, and the division.

The bill requires the extension to report annually to the department of natural resources and the house of representatives agriculture, water, and natural resources committee and the senate agriculture and natural resources committee on the implementation and outcomes of the outreach programs and initiatives.

Section 2 authorizes the division to use money in the local firefighter safety and disease prevention fund to:

- Provide need-based grants to fire service governing bodies and volunteer fire departments for the cost of certain firefighter certification courses, course materials, textbooks, instructors, and written testing and to provide fire instructor I or equivalent certification for instructors who want to participate in a train-the-trainer program created by the division;
- Subject to appropriations by the general assembly, create a train-the-trainer program to ensure that all instructors providing grant-funded certification classes described in the bill teach a consistent curriculum; and
- Subject to appropriations by the general assembly, create a statewide outreach program to promote fire service careers, including marketing materials targeted to youth, an online portal to access career pathways and resources, and marketing materials that include social media.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 38-13-801, **amend**
3 (1)(b); and **add** (2)(e), (2.6), and (2.7) as follows:

4 **38-13-801. Unclaimed property trust fund - creation -**
5 **payments - interest - appropriations - records - rules.** (1) (b) Except
6 as provided in subsections (2), **(2.6), (2.7),** (3), and (3.5) of this section,
7 the principal of the trust fund shall not be expended except to pay claims
8 made pursuant to this article 13. Money constituting the principal of the
9 trust fund is not fiscal year spending of the state for purposes of section
10 20 of article X of the state constitution and is not subject to appropriation
11 by the general assembly.

12 (2) (e) IF CLAIMS MADE PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE 13 EXCEED
13 THE BALANCE IN THE UNCLAIMED PROPERTY TRUST FUND, THE STATE
14 TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE
15 UNCLAIMED PROPERTY TRUST FUND AN AMOUNT NEEDED TO PAY THE
16 CLAIMS AND SHALL NOTIFY THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE OF THE
17 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE TRANSFER AND THE AMOUNT OF THE
18 TRANSFER FROM THE GENERAL FUND.

19 (2.6) (a) (I) (A) ON JULY 1, 2025, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL
20 MAKE AN INTEREST-FREE LOAN IN THE AMOUNT OF TWENTY-FIVE MILLION
21 DOLLARS FROM THE UNCLAIMED PROPERTY TRUST FUND TO THE
22 DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS CREATED IN SECTION 24-1-125. THE
23 DEPARTMENT MAY INITIALLY USE UP TO TWO PERCENT OF THE LOAN FOR
24 ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.

25 (B) ON JULY 1, 2026, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL MAKE AN
26 INTEREST-FREE LOAN IN THE AMOUNT OF TWENTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS
27 FROM THE UNCLAIMED PROPERTY TRUST FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF

1 LOCAL AFFAIRS CREATED IN SECTION 24-1-125. THE DEPARTMENT MAY
2 INITIALLY USE UP TO TWO PERCENT OF THE LOAN FOR ADMINISTRATION
3 COSTS.

4 (II) A LOAN MADE FROM THE UNCLAIMED PROPERTY TRUST FUND
5 TO A SEPARATE FUND WITHIN A STATE DEPARTMENT IS AN INTERFUND
6 LOAN ACCORDING TO GENERALLY ACCEPTED ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES,
7 MEANING THE LOAN IS NOT CLASSIFIED AS REVENUE AND IS BOOKED AS AN
8 INTERFUND RECEIVABLE OR PAYABLE. THEREFORE, THE LOAN DOES NOT
9 CREATE A MULTIPLE-FISCAL-YEAR DEBT OR FINANCIAL OBLIGATION.

10 (b) (I) THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS SHALL USE THE LOANS
11 TO CREATE A NEW ZERO-INTEREST REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM TO BENEFIT
12 FIRE DEPARTMENTS, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 24-33.5-1202. ELIGIBLE USES
13 OF A ZERO-INTEREST LOAN MADE TO A FIRE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO
14 THIS SUBSECTION (2.6) MAY INCLUDE:

15 (A) THE PURCHASE OF ROLLING STOCK, SUCH AS FIRE TRUCKS,
16 BRUSH TRUCKS, AND FAST ATTACK VEHICLES, AND ASSOCIATED
17 APPARATUS FOR THOSE VEHICLES, BY A FIRE DEPARTMENT WITH AN
18 APPROVED FLEET REPLACEMENT PLAN OR WITH DOCUMENTED EVIDENCE
19 OF FIREFIGHTING APPARATUS SHORTAGES IN PAST RESPONSES TO CALLS
20 FOR SERVICE OR EMERGENCIES;

21 (B) TO PAY FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS UNDER AN ADOPTED
22 CAPITAL FACILITIES PLAN RELATED TO THE RENOVATION OF EXISTING
23 FACILITIES OR THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW FACILITIES;

24 (C) THE PURCHASE OF OTHER FACILITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE, OR
25 EQUIPMENT NECESSARY TO EQUIP COLORADO'S FIREFIGHTER WORKFORCE
26 TO EFFECTIVELY RESPOND TO EMERGENCIES AND ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY;

27 OR

1 (D) TEMPORARY BRIDGE LOANS TO COVER COSTS IN EXCESS OF
2 NORMAL OPERATING COSTS PAID BY A FIRE DEPARTMENT DUE TO ITS
3 RESPONSE TO A LOCAL, STATE, OR FEDERAL EMERGENCY.

4 (II) WITHIN NINETY DAYS AFTER THE RECEIPT OF A LOAN BY THE
5 DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2.6)(a)(I) OF
6 THIS SECTION, AND PRIOR TO THE DEPARTMENT MAKING A LOAN UNDER
7 THE LOAN PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSULT WITH A
8 STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION REPRESENTING COLORADO FIRE CHIEFS, A
9 STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION REPRESENTING PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS,
10 AND THE DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN THE
11 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNING THE ADOPTION OF RULES OR
12 THE ESTABLISHMENT OF POLICIES OR PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE LOAN
13 PROGRAM.

14 (III) THE DEPARTMENT MAY CHARGE AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF
15 UP TO ONE-HALF OF ONE PERCENT ON THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF A LOAN
16 MADE UNDER THE LOAN PROGRAM.

17 (IV) THE DEPARTMENT MAY USE EARNINGS FROM THE
18 INVESTMENT OF THE LOANS MADE TO THE DEPARTMENT BY THE STATE
19 TREASURER PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2.6)(a)(I) OF THIS SECTION FOR
20 THE DEPARTMENT'S REASONABLE EXPENSES FOR ADMINISTERING THE
21 LOAN PROGRAM.

22 (V) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTIONS (2.6)(b)(III) AND
23 (2.6)(b)(IV) OF THIS SECTION, TO THE EXTENT FEASIBLE, THE DEPARTMENT
24 SHALL MANAGE THE COMBINED REVENUE GENERATED THROUGH
25 ADMINISTRATIVE FEES CHARGED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2.6)(b)(III)
26 OF THIS SECTION AND INVESTMENT EARNINGS PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION
27 (2.6)(b)(IV) OF THIS SECTION, SO AS NOT TO EXCEED THE DEPARTMENT'S

1 ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OVER THE LIFE OF THE LOAN PROGRAM.

2 (VI) A LOAN MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO
3 SUBSECTION (2.6)(b)(I) OF THIS SECTION TO A DISTRICT, AS DEFINED IN
4 SECTION 20 (2)(b) OF ARTICLE X OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION, MUST
5 EITHER BE APPROVED BY THE VOTERS OF THE DISTRICT IN ACCORDANCE
6 WITH SECTION 20 (4)(b) OF ARTICLE X OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION OR BE
7 STRUCTURED SO THAT IT IS NOT A MULTIPLE-FISCAL-YEAR DIRECT OR
8 INDIRECT DISTRICT DEBT OR OTHER FINANCIAL OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER
9 THAT REQUIRES VOTER APPROVAL UNDER SECTION 20 (4)(b) OF ARTICLE
10 X OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

11 (c) (I) THE FIRE DEPARTMENT REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM FUND,
12 REFERRED TO IN THIS SUBSECTION (2.6) AS THE "FUND", IS CREATED IN THE
13 STATE TREASURY.

14 (II) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:

15 (A) MONEY LOANED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS
16 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2.6)(a)(I) OF THIS SECTION;

17 (B) LOAN ADMINISTRATION FEES RECEIVED BY THE DEPARTMENT
18 OF LOCAL AFFAIRS PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2.6)(b)(III) OF THIS
19 SECTION; AND

20 (C) INTEREST AND INCOME DERIVED FROM THE DEPOSIT AND
21 INVESTMENT OF MONEY IN THE FUND.

22 (III) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL CREDIT ALL INTEREST AND
23 INCOME DERIVED FROM THE DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT OF MONEY IN THE
24 FUND TO THE FUND.

25 (IV) THE MONEY IN THE FUND IS CONTINUOUSLY APPROPRIATED TO
26 THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSES DESCRIBED IN THIS SUBSECTION (2.6)
27 AND TO PAY REASONABLE EXPENSES RELATING TO THE ADMINISTRATION

1 OF THE LOAN PROGRAM.

2 (d) THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS SHALL PAY BACK THE
3 LOANS MADE TO THE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2.6)(a)(I)
4 OF THIS SECTION TO THE UNCLAIMED PROPERTY TRUST FUND NOT LATER
5 THAN JULY 1, 2065. THE LOAN REPAYMENT IS SUBJECT TO FUTURE
6 APPROPRIATION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND SHALL NOT BE DEEMED
7 OR CONSTRUED AS CREATING AN INDEBTEDNESS OF THE STATE WITHIN THE
8 MEANING OF ANY PROVISION OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION OR STATE LAW
9 CONCERNING OR LIMITING THE CREATION OF INDEBTEDNESS BY THE STATE.

10 (2.7) THE STATE TREASURER MAY INVEST MONEY FROM THE TRUST
11 FUND IN THE FIREFIGHTER FIRST HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAM CREATED IN
12 SECTION 38-13-801.7.

13 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-75-402, **add**
14 (5)(III) as follows:

15 **24-75-402. Cash funds - limit on uncommitted reserves -**
16 **reduction in the amount of fees - exclusions - definitions.**

17 (5) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, the
18 following cash funds are excluded from the limitations specified in this
19 section:

20 (III) THE FIRE DEPARTMENT REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM FUND
21 CREATED IN SECTION 38-13-801 (2.6)(c).

22 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 38-13-801.7 as
23 follows:

24 **38-13-801.7. Firefighter first homeownership program -**
25 **creation - report - legislative declaration - definitions.** (1) THE
26 GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS
27 THAT INCLUDE PREFERENCES FOR FIREFIGHTERS IN THE STATE:

1 (a) PROMOTE A SUBSTANTIAL, LEGITIMATE, AND
2 NONDISCRIMINATORY STATE INTEREST THAT CANNOT BE SERVED BY
3 ANOTHER PRACTICE WITH A LESS DISCRIMINATORY EFFECT;

4 (b) DO NOT CONSTITUTE A SOURCE OF INCOME DISCRIMINATION
5 UNDER SECTION 24-34-501 (4.5) OR 24-34-502; AND

6 (c) COMPLY WITH THE FEDERAL "FAIR HOUSING ACT", 42 U.S.C.
7 SEC. 3601 ET SEQ., PART 5 OF ARTICLE 34 OF TITLE 24, AND OTHER STATE
8 AND LOCAL LAWS, ORDINANCES, AND RESOLUTIONS.

9 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
10 REQUIRES:

11 (a) "FIRE DEPARTMENT" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION
12 24-33.5-1202.

13 (b) "FIREFIGHTER" MEANS AN OFFICER OR MEMBER OF A FIRE
14 DEPARTMENT.

15 (c) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE FIREFIGHTER FIRST HOMEOWNERSHIP
16 PROGRAM CREATED IN THIS SECTION.

17 (d) "PROGRAM MANAGER" MEANS THE COLORADO HOUSING AND
18 FINANCE AUTHORITY CREATED IN SECTION 29-4-704; EXCEPT THAT, IF THE
19 COLORADO HOUSING AND FINANCE AUTHORITY ELECTS AT ANY TIME NOT
20 TO SERVE AS PROGRAM MANAGER, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL SELECT
21 ANOTHER PROGRAM MANAGER.

22 (e) "TRUST FUND" MEANS THE UNCLAIMED PROPERTY TRUST FUND
23 CREATED IN SECTION 38-13-801 (1)(a).

24 (3) THERE IS CREATED THE FIREFIGHTER FIRST HOMEOWNERSHIP
25 PROGRAM TO SUPPORT FIREFIGHTER HOMEOWNERSHIP, ADDRESS
26 FIREFIGHTER SHORTAGES, AND SUPPORT THE RETENTION OF FIREFIGHTERS.

27 (4) (a) THE STATE TREASURER MAY INVEST MONEY FROM THE

1 TRUST FUND INTO THE PROGRAM; EXCEPT THAT, IF THE STATE TREASURER
2 INVESTS MONEY INTO THE PROGRAM, THE TOTAL INVESTMENT AMOUNT
3 SHALL NOT EXCEED THE SUM OF THE INVESTMENTS MADE IN ACCORDANCE
4 WITH SUBSECTION (4)(b) OF THIS SECTION.

5 (b) IF THE PROGRAM IS IMPLEMENTED:

6 (I) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL PURCHASE FROM THE PROGRAM
7 MANAGER THE MORTGAGE PRODUCTS CREATED THROUGH THE PROGRAM
8 IN TRanches OF REASONABLE AMOUNTS THAT ARE MUTUALLY AGREED
9 UPON BY THE STATE TREASURER AND THE PROGRAM MANAGER; AND

10 (II) THE STATE TREASURER MAY PROVIDE NOTICE OF ANY
11 DISCONTINUATION IN FUTURE INVESTMENT THE PROGRAM MANAGER HAS
12 NOT ALREADY COMMITTED TO THE PROGRAM, WHICH NOTICE MUST BE
13 PROVIDED AT LEAST SIX MONTHS PRIOR TO DISCONTINUATION.

14 (c) THE PROGRAM MANAGER SHALL ESTABLISH GUIDELINES AND
15 UNDERWRITING CRITERIA FOR THE PROGRAM THAT:

16 (I) PRIORITIZE FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS WHO USE THE HOME AS A
17 PRIMARY RESIDENCE;

18 (II) PROVIDE SHARED EQUITY DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE TO
19 FIREFIGHTERS AND AIM TO HELP FIREFIGHTERS ACHIEVE, TO THE EXTENT
20 POSSIBLE, AFFORDABLE HOME OWNERSHIP;

21 (III) ALLOW APPRECIATION-SHARING BETWEEN THE PROGRAM AND
22 HOMEOWNER;

23 (IV) IF THE PROGRAM MANAGER IS THE COLORADO HOUSING AND
24 FINANCE AUTHORITY, PAIR A PROGRAM BORROWER WITH A FIRST
25 MORTGAGE LOAN PROVIDED THROUGH THE PROGRAM MANAGER'S
26 PARTICIPATING LENDER NETWORK THAT BEARS AN INTEREST RATE THAT
27 IS AT OR BELOW THE PREVAILING MORTGAGE RATES; AND

1 (V) SERVE HOME BUYERS ACROSS DIVERSE GEOGRAPHIC AREAS
2 AND HOUSING MARKETS.

3 (d) THE PROGRAM MANAGER IS ENTITLED TO NORMAL AND
4 CUSTOMARY FEES FOR MANAGING THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING ANY
5 CARRYING COSTS REQUIRED TO ACCOMMODATE TRANCHE PAYMENTS, PAID
6 BY THE PROGRAM OR THE PROGRAM MANAGER'S PRODUCTS AND SERVICES
7 PAIRED WITH THE PROGRAM.

8 (5) THE PROGRAM MANAGER SHALL ANNUALLY PUBLISH AND
9 PRESENT TO THE STATE TREASURER A REPORT ON PROGRAM OUTCOMES,
10 INCLUDING:

11 (a) THE NUMBER OF PROGRAM BORROWERS;

12 (b) THE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF PROGRAM BORROWERS;

13 (c) THE AREA MEDIAN INCOME OF PROGRAM BORROWERS; AND

14 (d) THE MEDIAN PURCHASE PRICE, MEDIAN LOAN AMOUNT, AND
15 AVERAGE INTEREST RATE ON FIRST MORTGAGES FOR PROGRAM
16 BORROWERS WHO BENEFIT FROM THE PROGRAM.

17 (6) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION PREVENTS LEVERAGING OTHER
18 SOURCES OF STATE OR LOCAL MONEY FOR THE PROGRAM.

19 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
20 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
21 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
22 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
23 institutions.