

**STATE and LOCAL
FISCAL IMPACT**

Drafting Number: LLS 09-0130	Date: January 7, 2009
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. King S. Sen. Penry; Gibbs	Bill Status: House Agriculture
	Fiscal Analyst: Bill Zepernick (303-866-4777)

TITLE: CONCERNING A REQUIREMENT THAT THE STATE MATCH LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE EMERGENCY FIRE FUND.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2009-2010	FY 2010-2011
State Expenditures		
General Fund	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
FTE Position Change	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE
Effective Date: Upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2009-2010: See State Appropriations section the fiscal note.		
Local Government Impact: See Local Government Impact section of the fiscal note.		

Summary of Legislation

The bill, recommended by the Interim Committee on Wildfire Issues in Wild Land-Urban Interface Areas, requires an annual appropriation from the General Fund to the Colorado State Forest Service to be dispersed to the Emergency Fire Fund set up and managed by counties and the Denver Water Board. The annual appropriation is to be equal to the amount of voluntary contributions provided by counties and the Denver Water Board to the Emergency Fire Fund during the prior fiscal year.

State Expenditures

The bill will increase state General Fund expenditures by the Colorado State Forest Service by \$1 million per year beginning in FY 2009-10. The increased funding will provide annual state matching funds to the Emergency Fire Fund equal to the amount contributed by local governments during the prior fiscal year.

The cost for FY 2009-10 is based on the amount of local government contributions to the Emergency Fire Fund during FY 2008-09 reported by the State Forest Service. The fiscal note assumes that the local government contributions to the Emergency Fire Fund will remain constant at FY 2008-09 levels. However, the bill does not specify a maximum amount for the state match and does not require maintenance of effort on the part of local governments. Therefore, the General Fund appropriation in future years could increase or decrease based on changes in the amount of local government contributions to the fund.

The fiscal note assumes that costs associated with receiving and dispersing the state matching funds to the Emergency Fire Fund will be minimal and can be absorbed within existing State Forest Service resources.

Local Government Impact

The bill will increase the amount of funds available to participating local governments in the Emergency Fire Fund for wild land fire mitigation, planning, and response activities. Assuming local government contributions to the fund remain constant, the state matching funds will provide an additional \$1 million per year.

State Appropriations

For FY 2009-10, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$1,000,000 to the Department of Higher Education, Board of Governors of the Colorado State University System, for allocation to the Colorado State Forest Service.

Departments Contacted

Higher Education