

**STATE and LOCAL  
FISCAL IMPACT**

**Drafting Number:** LLS 14-0284  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Sen. Roberts

**Date:** January 10, 2014  
**Bill Status:** Senate Local Government  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Alex Schatz (303-866-4375)

**SHORT TITLE:** CREATE WILDFIRE INFORMATION & RESOURCE CENTER

Fiscal Impact Summary*	FY 2014-2015	FY 2015-2016
<b>State Revenue</b> Cash Funds	Potential increase.	
<b>State Expenditures</b>	<b>\$30,957</b>	<b>\$26,431</b>
General Fund	27,175	22,472
Centrally Appropriated Costs**	3,782	3,959
<b>FTE Position Change</b>	0.5 FTE	0.5 FTE
<b>Appropriation Required:</b> \$27,175 - Department of Public Safety (FY 2014-15)		

\* This summary shows changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year.

\*\* These costs are not included in the bill's appropriation. See the State Expenditures section for more information.

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill, recommended by the **Wildfire Matters Review Committee**, creates the Wildfire Information and Resource Center (WIRC) in the Department of Public Safety. Within the department, the Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC) is charged with collecting wildfire-related information and links in an on-line resource for homeowners, fire professionals, the media, and educators. The WIRC must present information related to:

- current wildfires and prescribed burns;
- wildfire prevention and preparation;
- statewide fire conditions;
- fire training;
- funding for wildfire mitigation; and
- other research and information at the discretion of the director of the DFPC.

The DFPC is authorized to engage in a public-private partnership and to utilize grants and donations for the WIRC. However, implementation of the WIRC does not rely on gifts, grants, or donations.

**State Revenue**

State revenue will increase if the DFPC receives cash fund grants or donations applicable to the WIRC budget. State revenue under the bill is conditional upon the commitment of a private partner, donor, or grant maker to fund WIRC activities. At this time, no such source of external funding has been identified.

**State Expenditures**

**The bill results in increased state General Fund expenditures in the Department of Public Safety and a minimal increase in workload to certain other state agencies.** Costs incurred by the DFPC in the Department of Public Safety total \$30,957 and 0.5 FTE in FY 2014-15, and \$26,431 and 0.5 FTE in FY 2015-16. Increased costs in the DFPC are summarized below in Table 1.

**Assumptions.** While the bill requires the WIRC to be operational within 60 days after the bill becomes effective, the fiscal note assumes that any activities to establish the WIRC in the current fiscal year (FY 2013-14) will rely on existing DFPC personnel and on-line resources and will not require new appropriations. New funding is assumed to be available for a full 12 months of operations in FY 2014-15.

<b>Table 1. Expenditures Under SB 14-008</b>		
<b>Cost Components</b>	<b>FY 2014-15</b>	<b>FY 2015-16</b>
Personal Services	\$21,997	\$21,997
FTE	0.5	0.5
Operating Expenses	475	475
Capital Outlay	4,703	0
Centrally Appropriated Costs*	3,782	3,959
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$30,957</b>	<b>\$26,431</b>

\* Centrally appropriated costs (employee insurance, retirement) are not included in the bill's appropriation.

**Department of Public Safety.** To provide relevant and timely information required by the bill, a member of DFPC staff will develop and maintain the WIRC website. The fiscal note assumes that workload in the DFPC will average 20 hours per week, with information on active wildfires requiring greater effort during the fire season and information concerning mitigation and training updated in times of low wildfire urgency. This 0.5 FTE Administrative Assistant III position will incur standard operating costs, as well as capital outlay costs for furniture and a computer in FY 2014-15.

**Other state agencies.** Several state agencies provide information within the WIRC's scope. For example, burn permits issued by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) indicate where prescribed burn activities are taking place within the state at any given time. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) in the Colorado State University Extension also assess forest health and wildfire risk, and coordinate mitigation activities, including administering grant programs. The minimal workload increase for the CDPHE, DNR, and CSFS to respond to WIRC requests for information does not require a new appropriation.

**Local Government Impact**

Fiscal impacts of this bill on local governments are minimal. Sheriffs, local fire departments, local emergency managers, and other local government officials will respond to WIRC requests for information, resulting in a minimal increase in workload. The same officials may utilize the WIRC to expedite grant applications, more effectively monitor fire risk, and obtain fire training. Overall, no net change in local government workload is expected.

**Effective Date**

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

**State Appropriations**

In FY 2014-15, the bill requires an appropriation of \$27,175 General Fund to the Department of Public Safety, and 0.5 FTE.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

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