

**THE COMMITTEE CAN APPROVE UP TO 5 BILLS FOR LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER**

**Topics Discussed related to Wildfire Legislation**

**For 2015 legislative session**

1. Reauthorize funding for Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant Program continue requirement to give more consideration to applicants who have a plan for the wood product and include pile burning and broadcast burning as acceptable methods for reducing the fuel load
2. Provide incentives for insurance industry to make clear and transparent requirements for risk reduction efforts in the WUI that are consistent from community to community
3. Establish mandatory minimum state wide common standard for wild fire mitigation
4. Establish a voluntary state wide common standard for wild fire mitigation with incentives for communities that adopt the standard
5. Provide an incentive for local governments to adopt the NFPA model building code, International code council WUI Building codes and or CSFS defensible space standards
6. Disallow broadcast burns until more safety measures are in place and as a last resort
7. Provide incentives for use of the wood product including firewood sales, pellets, chips for burning to create energy, and construction materials
8. Clarify liability of state workers who perform prescribed burns. Provide immunity protection for state employees if the state employees are qualified and acting in the course of their employment they would not be liable for any civil damages unless their acts or omissions are willful and wanton. (HB12-1361)
9. Fund the use of coupled weather fire modeling for up to 4 wildfires in the WUI
10. 2.5M for 3 more type III All Hazard Incident Management Teams. This is in addition to the 5 existing teams
11. Change the Wildfire mitigation tax deduction to a credit
12. Create a statutory framework to enable and encourage the existence of nongovernmental volunteer fire departments in areas of the state that do not have fire protection.
13. Authorize counties to prohibit open burning including agricultural burns during high fire danger days
14. Attach a fee to every homeowner insurance policy to pay for wildfire mitigation in watershed areas
15. Extend the deadline for Radio System report to March, 2015

**CREATE A COLORADO WILDLAND AND PRESCRIBED FIRE ADVISORY COMMISSION UNDER THE DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY INCLUDING COMPOSITION LENGTH OF TERMS TYPE OF EXPERTISE REPRESENTED AND INTERESTS REPRESENTED**

THE COMMITTEE GAVE DIRECTOR COOK SOME SUGGESTIONS ABOUT THE COMPOSITION OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE BUT DID NOT DECIDE TO ESTABLISH THE COMMITTEE IN STATUTE

## DEADLINES

1. Submit language for bills by September 10
2. Approve proposed bill by October 1
3. Present bills to Legislative Council on October 15
4. Submit recommendations pertaining to the advisory commission to the House Agricultural, Livestock and Natural Resources Committee and the Senate Agriculture, Natural resources and Energy Committee by December 1, 2014

## MEETING DATES

- |                 |         |                  |                        |
|-----------------|---------|------------------|------------------------|
| 1. September 10 | 9:00 am | Wildfire meeting | State Capitol Room 356 |
| 2. September 26 | 9:00 am | Wildfire meeting | State Capitol Room 356 |

THE COMMITTEE CAN APPROVE UP TO 5 BILLS FOR LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER UNLESS THE COMMITTEE REQUESTS A WAIVER AND THE WAIVER IS GRANTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

## Enacted Legislation from previous sessions 2013-2014

1. 14-HB-1008-Allowed CWRPDA Private Entity Forest Health Loans
2. 14-B-46 Local firefighter safety Grant Program
3. 14-SB-47 Wild land Firefighters Death Benefit Payments
4. 14-SB-97 Immunity public agencies Insurance for wildfire mitigation
5. 14-SB-8 Wildfire information and resource Center
6. 14-HB-1010 Corrections to prescribed burn program laws
7. 14-SB-223 Lower North Fork Fire Payments to victims
8. 14-HB-1008 Water Resource loan to private parties
9. 14-Volunteer Firefighter Pension Plan
10. SB 13 -269 Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant Program

## Resolutions 2014

1. Honor Granite Mountain Interagency Hotshots
2. Honor Colorado National Guard

#### RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE JBC:

1. 11.7 M to sustain the aviation program
2. Create a placeholder and support the recommendation of the Colorado Department of Public Safety to fund the expansion of the interoperable communication and state digital trunk radio system if requested following the completion of their needs assessment.
3. Continue to fund the resource mobilization plan

#### RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

1. Stop raiding national forest budget and create a separate fire suppression line item
2. Encourage the purchase of additional aerial firefighting equipment.

#### DRAFTING REQUESTS MADE BY SEPTEMBER 10

1. Reauthorize funding for Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant Program continue requirement to give more consideration to applicants who have a plan for the wood product and include pile burning and broadcast burning as acceptable methods for reducing the fuel load
2. Provide incentives for use of the wood product including firewood sales, pellets, chips for burning to create energy, and construction materials
3. Change the Wildfire mitigation tax deduction to a credit
4. Create a statutory framework to enable and encourage the existence of nongovernmental volunteer fire departments in areas of the state that do not have fire protection.
5. Clarify liability of state workers who perform prescribed burns. Provide immunity protection for state employees if the state employees are qualified and acting in the course of their employment they would not be liable for any civil damages unless their acts or omissions are willful and wanton. (HB12-1361)
6. Establish a state wide mutual aid system that supports and complements the Resource Mobilization Program
7. Maintain agricultural property tax designation on agricultural property damaged in a wildfire for at least 5 years