INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 25-0181.01 Caroline Martin x5902   **SENATE BILL 25-022**

SENATE SPONSORSHIP
Baisley and Marchman,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP
Weinberg and Boesenecker, Mauro

Senate Committees	House Committees
Transportation & Energy	

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101   **CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TO**

102   **PREDICT, PREVENT, OR ASSIST IN FIGHTING WILDFIRES, AND, IN**

103   **CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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. The bill requires the general assembly to appropriate $7,500,000 to the division of fire prevention and control (division) for state fiscal year 2024-25 and allows any unexpended portion of the appropriation to also be expended in state fiscal year 2025-26. The division is required to use the money to study

and develop applications of artificial intelligence that predict, mitigate, or assist in fighting wildfires, including, at a minimum, applications of artificial intelligence which produce data that can be incorporated into maps displaying the following:

- Classification of vegetation and wildfire fuel;
- Predictions regarding the likelihood of wildfire ignition potential in a particular area following observed lightning events;
- The perimeter of an ongoing wildfire; and
- Predictions regarding the locations and area to which an ongoing wildfire may spread.

The division may contract with a third party that has developed artificial intelligence tools to predict, mitigate, or assist in fighting wildfires. The division is also authorized to seek, accept, and expend gifts, grants, and donations for the purposes of the bill.

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

2   **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-33.5-1240 as

3   follows:

4   **24-33.5-1240.   Applying artificial intelligence to predict,**

5   **prevent, or assist in fighting wildfires - definition.** (1) AS USED IN THIS

6   SECTION, "ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS SET

7   FORTH IN SECTION 2-3-1701 (1).

8   (2)   FOR THE 2024-25 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL

9   ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE SEVEN MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND

10   DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DIVISION TO BE USED IN

11   ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION. ANY UNEXPENDED OR UNENCUMBERED

12   MONEY APPROPRIATED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2) REMAINS

13   AVAILABLE FOR EXPENDITURE FOR THE SAME PURPOSES IN THE 2025-26

14   STATE FISCAL YEAR WITHOUT FURTHER APPROPRIATION.

15   (3) THE DIVISION SHALL USE THE MONEY APPROPRIATED PURSUANT

16   TO SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION TO STUDY AND DEVELOP

17   APPLICATIONS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE THAT PREDICT, MITIGATE, OR

1 ASSIST IN FIGHTING WILDFIRES, INCLUDING, AT A MINIMUM, APPLICATIONS

2 OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE WHICH PRODUCE DATA THAT CAN BE

3 INCORPORATED INTO MAPS DISPLAYING THE FOLLOWING:

4   (a) CLASSIFICATION OF VEGETATION AND WILDFIRE FUEL;

5   (b) PREDICTIONS REGARDING WILDFIRE IGNITION POTENTIAL IN A

6 PARTICULAR AREA FOLLOWING OBSERVED LIGHTNING EVENTS;

7   (c) THE PERIMETER OF AN ONGOING WILDFIRE; AND

8   (d) PREDICTIONS REGARDING THE LOCATIONS AND AREA TO WHICH

9 AN ONGOING WILDFIRE MAY SPREAD.

10   (4) IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH THE PURPOSES OUTLINED IN

11 SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION, THE DIVISION MAY CONTRACT WITH A

12 THIRD PARTY THAT, AT THE TIME OF CONTRACTING, HAS DEVELOPED

13 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TOOLS TO PREDICT, MITIGATE, OR ASSIST IN

14 FIGHTING WILDFIRES.

15   (5) THE DIVISION MAY SEEK, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND GIFTS, GRANTS,

16 AND DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SOURCES FOR THE PURPOSES OF

17 SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION.

18   **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act

19 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the

20 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except

21 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V

22 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this

23 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take

24 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in

25 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the

26 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.