



Fiscal Note
Legislative Council Staff
Nonpartisan Services for Colorado’s Legislature

SB 25-011: DETECTION COMPONENTS FOR WILDFIRE MITIGATION

Prime Sponsors:
Sen. Daugherty
Rep. Weinberg; Brown

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Fiscal note status: This revised fiscal note reflects the reengrossed bill.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill allows the Department of Public Safety to establish vendor agreements for the operation of an AI-enabled wildfire detection component system.

Types of impacts. The bill affects the following areas starting in FY 2025-26:

- State Revenue
- State Expenditures
- State Transfers

Appropriations. To implement the bill, a transfer from the General Fund to the Fire Technology Cash Fund is required, and that amount must be appropriated to the Department of Public Safety; see State Appropriations section.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact ¹	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	Increase	Increase
Transferred Funds	Increase	Increase
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

¹ The exact expenditure impact will depend on funding received for the bill, either from gifts, grants, and donations, or appropriations made at the discretion of the General Assembly.

Summary of Legislation

The bill authorizes the Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC) in the Department of Public Safety (CDPS) to establish vendor agreements for the operation of wildfire detection components that are artificial-intelligence-enabled. The CDPS may issue a request for qualifications from prospective vendors to ensure agreements for the operation of detection components meet certain criteria. Among these criteria, agreements must provide an interface for fire agencies and other end-users, and ensure that end-users are aware of requirements regarding criminal invasion of privacy. Additionally, the bill creates the Fire Technology Cash Fund, for use by the CDPS, to pay for vendor agreements. This fund consists of any money appropriated or transferred by the General Assembly, and any gifts, grants, or donations received by the CDPS to fund vendor agreements. The CDPS must include information about these agreements at the department's annual SMART Act hearing. The CDPS cannot enter into a vendor agreement that requires continued funding for a technology purchased through a single gift, grant, or donation.

State Revenue

The bill may increase state revenue to the Fire Technology Cash Fund from gifts, grants, or donations. No amount or source of this revenue has been identified. Gifts, grants, and donations are exempt from TABOR revenue limits.

State Transfers

Funding for this bill is at the discretion of the General Assembly. To implement the bill, a General Fund appropriation should be made to transfer money to the Fire Technology Cash Fund starting in FY 2025-26. In future years, appropriations to the fund can be set through the annual budget process. The reengrossed bill does not currently include an appropriation to the fund.

State Expenditures

Starting in FY 2025-26, expenditures in the CDPS will increase by the amount of funding received for vendor agreements, if any. This amount is at the discretion of the General Assembly.

For informational purposes, it is estimated that full coverage of high- and medium-risk fire areas in the state would require between 150 and 200 additional detection components, at an initial cost of \$50,000 per component (up to \$10 million in total costs). Similar wildfire detection components deployed by the CDPS also have fixed expenses for each location, including installation costs. Each location may also require certain ongoing costs. Vendor agreement would likely be structured to provide a certain number of detection components and their operations, and so the increase in expenditures for a single agreement would vary. Additionally, other forms of artificial-intelligence-enabled wildfire technology could cost several million dollars.

Workload will also increase to establish and monitor vendor agreements, which could require additional staff costs in the CDPS depending on the number, size, and complexity of future agreements.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

For FY 2025-26, the bill requires an appropriation to the Fire Technology Cash Fund. The amount of this appropriated transfer must be determined by, and is at the discretion of, the General Assembly. An appropriation in the same amount is required from the Fire Technology Cash Fund to the Department of Public Safety.

Currently, no appropriation is included in the reengrossed bill.

State and Local Government Contacts

Public Safety