

Bill No.: SF0152 **Effective:** Immediately

LSO No.: 25LSO-0663

Enrolled Act No.: SEA No. 0062

Chapter No.: 129

Prime Sponsor: Barlow

Catch Title: Wildfire management-amendments.

Has Report: Yes

Subject: Wildfire management.

Summary/Major Elements:

- Amends the duties of the State Forester to include maintaining wildland and forestry fire control programs.
- Provides appropriations to restore funds expended by the state to suppress wildfires that occurred in 2024.
- Authorizes the Governor to borrow up to thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000.00) from the Legislative Stabilization Reserve Account as necessary to meet funding requirements to fight wildfires in the event the reserves have been exhausted.
- Appropriates two million seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$2,750,000.00) to and authorizes one (1) full-time and four (4) part-time positions for, the Office of State Lands and Investments for contract and direct fire response.
- Appropriates forty-nine million four hundred seventy-nine thousand five hundred sixty-four dollars (\$49,479,564.00) to the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust Income Account to provide grants to various special districts and the Game and Fish Commission for restoring grass, hay and other vegetation, prevent invasive vegetation and restore habitats on state and private lands destroyed by wildfires.

Comments:

- Requires the Governor to report to the Joint Appropriations Committee, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives upon borrowing from the Legislative Stabilization Reserve Account as authorized to fight wildfires.

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- The Governor exercised line-item vetoes in this act. Originally, the enrolled act:
 - Authorized the State Loan and Investment Board to make loans totaling up to one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000.00) from the Legislative Stabilization Reserve Account for wildfire mitigation and restoration.
 - Reverted funds related to providing energy related matching funds.
 - Repealed language that but for the line-item veto would have been redundant borrowing authority.
 - Required the Office of State Lands and Investments to report on revenues and expenditures in relation to loans authorized for wildfire restoration not later than October 15 of each year the loan program is in operation to the Joint Appropriations Committee and the Joint Agriculture, State and Public Lands and Water Resources Interim Committee.

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