



## SB24-009

**SHORT TITLE:** Local Government Disaster-Related Programs

**LONG TITLE:** Concerning assisting local governments in disaster-related programs, and, in connection therewith, establishing the slash removal pilot program and providing guidance to local governments on debris removal programs.

**SPONSORS:** Sen. Cutter/Representatives Jaquez-Lewis and Snyder

**COMMITTEES:** Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee

**PURPOSE OF THE BILL:** To aid counties in removing slash created by wildfire mitigation activities and provide guidance for debris removal following wildfire.

**PROponents OF THE BILL:** Wildfire Matters Review Committee

**POTENTIAL STAKEHOLDERS:** Cities, business organizations, municipal and county governments. Special districts

**BACKGROUND:** Following several wildfires in Colorado there has been an increased emphasis on mitigation and removal of branches, limbs, and other vegetation to reduce wildfire risk. At the same time disastrous floods and wildfires have demonstrated the importance of timely cleanup and removal of debris that resulted, highlighting the frequent lack of coordination between local, state, and federal agencies and public concern over hazardous constituents in the remaining debris. The two programs outlined attempt to address some of the concerns.

**Is this bill necessary this year?** There is no deadline

**How does the bill change current law?** It creates two separate programs to aid local governments in removing slash from wildfire mitigation and removing debris from disasters.

**Does the bill affect the prior appropriations system?** No

**How is the bill implemented?** The State Forester will create and administer a slash removal pilot program for counties, select counties to participate, and determine best practices. The e division of homeland security and emergency management in the department of public safety is required to provide guidance to local governments in removal of debris following a disaster, including negotiation with federal emergency management agencies; developing standard right of entry forms; establishing right of way cleanup procedures for public roadways; considering hazardous materials and environmental and safety concerns; and ensuring that local programs are limited to residential debris (and not commercial) debris removal.

**Practical considerations:**

**Fiscal Impact:** The bill directs the appropriation of \$286,135 to the Department of Higher Education, and 0.4 FTE, for use by the Colorado State Forest Service at Colorado State University; and \$161,947 to the Department of Public Safety, and 1.6 FTE. There will be additional costs through a central appropriation to support personnel in the budget as well as a required 15% set-aside from the General Fund to the Reserve.

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