

First Regular Session
Sixty-seventh General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT
9.11.08

BILL 6

LLS NO. 09-0126.02 John Hershey

INTERIM COMMITTEE BILL

**Interim Committee on Wildfire Issues
in Wild Land-Urban Interface Areas**

SHORT TITLE: "Incentives For Volunteer Firefighters"

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING INCENTIVES FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not necessarily reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted.)

Interim Committee on Wildfire Issues in Wild Land-Urban Interface Areas. Creates a fund in the division of fire safety in the department of public safety (division) to make grants to qualified volunteer firefighters to cover the costs of training in fighting fires in wild land-urban interface areas.

Directs the division to collaborate with the state board for community colleges and occupational education to develop a system to provide tuition vouchers to qualified volunteer firefighters who are enrolled in full-time study and who agree to serve as volunteer

*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

firefighters for a specified number of years after completing their education.

Allows qualified volunteer firefighters to claim a tax rebate up to a specified amount for reimbursement of the costs of firefighting equipment.

Defines terms. Makes conforming amendments.

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

SECTION 1. 23-60-304, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended
BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SUBSECTION to read:

23-60-304. Plans - development and implementation - credentialing - fees. (6) THE BOARD SHALL ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT WITH THE DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO DEVELOP A SYSTEM IN WHICH A QUALIFIED VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER MAY RECEIVE A TUITION VOUCHER TO ATTEND COURSES AT AN INSTITUTION IN THE STATE SYSTEM OF COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 24-33.5-1216, C.R.S.

SECTION 2. 24-33.5-1202, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SUBSECTION to read:

24-33.5-1202. Definitions. As used in this part 12, unless the context otherwise requires:

(8.5) "QUALIFIED VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER" MEANS A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER AS DEFINED IN SECTION 31-30-1102 (9), C.R.S., IN ACTIVE SERVICE AND MAINTAINING THE MINIMUM AMOUNT OF TRAINING IN A FIRE DEPARTMENT OF THIRTY-SIX HOURS EACH YEAR.

SECTION 3. Part 12 of article 33.5 of title 24, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING NEW SECTIONS to read:

1 **24-33.5-1215. Firefighting in wild land-urban interface areas**
2 **- training - volunteer firefighters - grants - fund created.** (1) THERE
3 IS HEREBY CREATED IN THE DIVISION THE WILD LAND-URBAN VOLUNTEER
4 FIREFIGHTER TRAINING FUND, REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS THE
5 "FUND". MONEYS IN THE FUND SHALL BE SUBJECT TO ANNUAL
6 APPROPRIATION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. ANY INTEREST DERIVED
7 FROM THE DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT OF MONEYS IN THE FUND SHALL BE
8 CREDITED TO THE FUND. ANY UNEXPENDED OR UNENCUMBERED MONEYS
9 REMAINING IN THE FUND AT THE END OF ANY FISCAL YEAR SHALL REMAIN
10 IN THE FUND AND SHALL NOT REVERT OR BE TRANSFERRED TO THE
11 GENERAL FUND OR ANY OTHER FUND.

12 (2) SUBJECT TO ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS BY THE GENERAL
13 ASSEMBLY, THE DIVISION MAY MAKE GRANTS FROM THE FUND TO
14 QUALIFIED VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS TO COVER THE COSTS OF
15 PARTICIPATING IN TRAINING PROGRAMS APPROVED BY THE DIVISION ON
16 FIGHTING FIRES IN WILD LAND-URBAN INTERFACE AREAS.

17 **24-33.5-1216. Volunteer firefighters - tuition vouchers -**
18 **community and technical colleges.** THE DIVISION SHALL COLLABORATE
19 WITH THE STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND OCCUPATIONAL
20 EDUCATION CREATED IN SECTION 23-60-104 (1) (b), C.R.S., TO DEVELOP
21 A SYSTEM TO PROVIDE A TUITION VOUCHER FOR THREE CREDITS PER
22 ACADEMIC YEAR TO A QUALIFIED VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER WHO IS A
23 FULL-TIME STUDENT AT AN INSTITUTION IN THE STATE SYSTEM OF
24 COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES AND WHO AGREES TO SERVE AS A
25 VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER FOR NO LESS THAN FOUR YEARS AFTER
26 COMPLETING HIS OR HER EDUCATION AT THE INSTITUTION.

27 **SECTION 4.** Title 39, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY

1 THE ADDITION OF A NEW ARTICLE to read:

2

ARTICLE 36

3

Volunteer Firefighter Rebate

4

39-36-101. Definitions. AS USED IN THIS ARTICLE, UNLESS THE

5

CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

6

(1) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE.

7

(2) "QUALIFIED VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER" MEANS A VOLUNTEER

8

FIREFIGHTER AS DEFINED IN SECTION 31-30-1102 (9), C.R.S., IN ACTIVE

9

SERVICE AND MAINTAINING THE MINIMUM AMOUNT OF TRAINING IN A FIRE

10

DEPARTMENT OF THIRTY-SIX HOURS EACH YEAR.

11

39-36-102. Rebate for volunteer firefighters - equipment costs.

12

(1) FOR CALENDAR YEARS 2009, 2010, AND 2011, THE DEPARTMENT

13

SHALL PAY A REBATE OF UP TO TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS PER YEAR

14

TO REIMBURSE A QUALIFIED VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER FOR COSTS

15

INCURRED BY THE FIREFIGHTER TO PURCHASE FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT

16

DURING THE YEAR.

17

(2) THE REBATE AUTHORIZED BY SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION

18

SHALL NOT BE PAID TO A QUALIFIED VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER FOR MORE

19

THAN TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS.

20

39-36-103. Procedure for payment of rebate. THE DEPARTMENT

21

SHALL PAY THE REBATE AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 39-36-102 UPON

22

RECEIPT OF A VALID CLAIM BY A QUALIFIED VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER ON

23

THE FORM PRESCRIBED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT

24

WITH DOCUMENTATION VERIFYING COSTS INCURRED BY THE FIREFIGHTER

25

TO PURCHASE FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT.

26

39-36-104. Rules. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE

27

DEPARTMENT MAY PROMULGATE RULES NECESSARY FOR THE

1 ADMINISTRATION OF THIS ARTICLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 4 OF
2 TITLE 24, C.R.S.

3 **39-36-105. Repeal of article.** THIS ARTICLE IS REPEALED,
4 EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2012.

5 **SECTION 5. Effective date.** This act shall take effect at 12:01
6 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after
7 final adjournment of the general assembly that is allowed for submitting
8 a referendum petition pursuant to article V, section 1 (3) of the state
9 constitution, (August 4, 2009, if adjournment sine die is on May 6, 2009);
10 except that, if a referendum petition is filed against this act or an item,
11 section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section,
12 or part, if approved by the people, shall take effect on the date of the
13 official declaration of the vote thereon by proclamation of the governor.

14 <{Ask Committee.}>