

**TASK FORCE STUDYING FUNDING FOR
FIGHTING FOREST FIRES**

2008 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Dennis E. Stowell

House Sponsor: Stephen H. Urquhart

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill creates the Wildland Fire Task Force.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ creates the Wildland Fire Task Force; and
- ▶ directs the Wildland Fire Task Force to study funding and responsibility for wildland fire suppression.

Monies Appropriated in this Bill:

This bill appropriates:

- ▶ \$4,000 to the Senate;
- ▶ \$4,000 to the House of Representatives; and
- ▶ \$19,000 to the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

Other Special Clauses:

This bill is repealed on November 30, 2008.

Uncodified Material Affected:

ENACTS UNCODIFIED MATERIAL

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. **Wildland Fire Task Force -- Creation -- Membership -- Quorum --**



28 **Compensation -- Staff.**

29 (1) There is created the Wildland Fire Task Force consisting of the following 13
30 members, none of whom may be from the same county:

31 (a) two members of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate;

32 (b) two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the
33 House of Representatives;

34 (c) the attorney general or the attorney general's designee; and

35 (d) eight members appointed by the governor and described as follows:

36 (i) one member who represents a county;

37 (ii) one member who represents a municipality;

38 (iii) one member who manages a fire department or fire management organization;

39 (iv) one member who represents a nonprofit corporation that supports fire prevention
40 and education;

41 (v) one member who represents a special district;

42 (vi) one member who represents an organization to restore and manage ecosystem
43 health;

44 (vii) one member who is on the Forestry, Fire and State Lands Advisory Council; and

45 (viii) one member who is an employee of the Division of Forestry, Fire and State
46 Lands.

47 (2) (a) The president of the Senate shall designate a member of the Senate appointed
48 under Subsection (1)(a) as a cochair of the task force.

49 (b) The speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate a member of the House
50 of Representatives appointed under Subsection (1)(b) as a cochair of the task force.

51 (3) (a) A majority of the members of the task force constitute a quorum.

52 (b) The action of a majority of a quorum constitutes the action of the task force.

53 (4) (a) Salaries and expenses of the members of the task force who are legislators shall
54 be paid in accordance with Section 36-2-2 and Legislative Joint Rules, Title 5, Chapter 3,
55 Expense and Mileage Reimbursement for Authorized Legislative Meetings, Special Sessions,
56 and Veto Override Sessions.

57 (b) A member of the task force who is not a legislator may not receive compensation
58 for the member's work associated with the task force, but may receive per diem and

59 reimbursement for travel expenses incurred as a member of the task force at the rates
60 established by the Division of Finance under Sections 63A-3-106 and 63A-3-107.

61 (5) The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel and the Legislative Fiscal
62 Analyst shall provide staff support to the task force.

63 **Section 2. Duties -- Interim report.**

64 (1) The task force shall review and make recommendations on the following issues:

65 (a) funding of wildland fire suppression;

66 (b) cost sharing for wildland fire suppression; and

67 (c) responsibility for wildland fire suppression.

68 (2) A final report, including any proposed legislation, shall be presented to the Natural
69 Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee and the Natural Resources
70 Appropriations Subcommittee before November 30, 2008.

71 **Section 3. Appropriation.**

72 There is appropriated from the General Fund for fiscal year 2008 only:

73 (1) \$4,000 to the Senate to pay for the compensation and expenses of the senators on
74 the task force;

75 (2) \$4,000 to the House of Representatives to pay for the compensation and expenses
76 of the representatives on the task force; and

77 (3) \$19,000 to the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel to pay for the
78 compensation and expenses of members of the task force who are not legislators.

79 **Section 4. Repeal date.**

80 This bill is repealed on November 30, 2008.

Legislative Review Note
as of 2-13-08 5:56 PM

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

S.B. 251 - Task Force Studying Funding for Fighting Forest Fires

Fiscal Note

2008 General Session
State of Utah

State Impact

This bill appropriates from the General Fund for FY 2008 the following: \$4,000 to the Senate, \$4,000 to the House of Representatives, and \$19,000 to the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel to pay for the expenses of the Wildland Fire Task Force.

	<u>FY 2008</u> <u>Approp.</u>	<u>FY 2009</u> <u>Approp.</u>	<u>FY 2010</u> <u>Approp.</u>	<u>FY 2008</u> <u>Revenue</u>	<u>FY 2009</u> <u>Revenue</u>	<u>FY 2010</u> <u>Revenue</u>
General Fund, One-Time	\$27,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$27,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Individual, Business and/or Local Impact

Enactment of this bill likely will not result in direct, measurable costs and/or benefits for individuals, businesses, or local governments.