

Casey Snider proposes the following substitute bill:

Wildland Urban Interface Modifications

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Casey Snider

Senate Sponsor: Michael K. McKell

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill addresses efforts to oversee wildfire risks associated with wildland urban interface property.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms;
- requires counties to take certain actions related to wildland urban interface property, including assessing a fee;
- directs the fee to be retained by a county and deposited into the Wildland-urban Interface Prevention, Preparedness, and Mitigation Fund;
- addresses insuring wildland urban interface property;
- imposes notice requirements related to insuring wildland urban interface property;
- requires counties and municipalities to adopt the wildland urban interface building code standards;
- permits the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands (division) to choose not to cover costs of local governments under certain circumstances;
- directs the division to establish a program for wildland urban interface coordinators to evaluate, using a triage scale, high risk wildland urban interface property;
- addresses actions related to evaluating the high risk wildland urban interface property;
- provides for a database to be accessed by certain insurers related to evaluating high risk wildland urban interface property;
- authorizes rulemaking;
- addresses liability; and
- makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

29 None

30 **Other Special Clauses:**

31 This bill provides a special effective date.

32 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

33 AMENDS:

34 **15A-5-203**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapters 21, 381

35 **63G-7-201**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapters 34, 105, 259, 329, 452, and
36 456

37 **65A-8-203**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 77

38 **65A-8-215**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 77

39 ENACTS:

40 **17-16-22**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

41 **31A-22-1310**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

42 **65A-8-401**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

43 **65A-8-402**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

44 **65A-8-403**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

45

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

47 Section 1. Section **15A-5-203** is amended to read:

48 **15A-5-203 . Amendments and additions to IFC related to fire safety, building,**
49 **and site requirements.**

50 (1) For IFC, Chapter 5, Fire Service Features:

51 (a) In IFC, Chapter 5, a new Section 501.5, Access grade and fire flow, is added as
52 follows: "An authority having jurisdiction over a structure built in accordance with
53 the requirements of the International Residential Code as adopted in the State
54 Construction Code, may require an automatic fire sprinkler system for the structure
55 only by ordinance and only if any of the following conditions exist:

56 (i) the structure:

57 (A) is located in an urban-wildland interface area as provided in the Utah
58 Wildland Urban Interface Code adopted as a construction code under the State
59 Construction Code; and

60 (B) does not meet the requirements described in Utah Code, Subsection 65A-8-203
61 (4)[(a)] (f) and Utah Administrative Code, R652-122-1300, Minimum
62 Standards for County Wildland Fire Ordinance;

- 63 (ii) the structure is in an area where a public water distribution system with fire
64 hydrants does not exist as required in Utah Administrative Code, R309-550-5,
65 Water Main Design;
- 66 (iii) the only fire apparatus access road has a grade greater than 10% for more than
67 500 continual feet;
- 68 (iv) the total floor area of all floor levels within the exterior walls of the dwelling unit
69 exceeds 10,000 square feet; or
- 70 (v) the total floor area of all floor levels within the exterior walls of the dwelling unit
71 is double the average of the total floor area of all floor levels of unsprinkled
72 homes in the subdivision that are no larger than 10,000 square feet.
- 73 (vi) Exception: A single family dwelling does not require a fire sprinkler system if
74 the dwelling:
- 75 (A) is located outside the wildland urban interface;
- 76 (B) is built in a one-lot subdivision; and
- 77 (C) has 50 feet of defensible space on all sides that limits the propensity of fire
78 spreading from the dwelling to another property."
- 79 (b) In IFC, Chapter 5, Section 506.1, Where Required, is deleted and rewritten as
80 follows: "Where access to or within a structure or an area is restricted because of
81 secured openings or where immediate access is necessary for life-saving or
82 fire-fighting purposes, the fire code official, after consultation with the building
83 owner, may require a key box to be installed in an approved location. The key box
84 shall contain keys to gain necessary access as required by the fire code official. For
85 each fire jurisdiction that has at least one building with a required key box, the fire
86 jurisdiction shall adopt an ordinance, resolution, or other operating rule or policy that
87 creates a process to ensure that each key to each key box is properly accounted for
88 and secure."
- 89 (c) In IFC, Chapter 5, a new Section 507.1.1, Isolated one- and two-family dwellings, is
90 added as follows: "Fire flow may be reduced for an isolated one- and two-family
91 dwelling when the authority having jurisdiction over the dwelling determines that the
92 development of a full fire-flow requirement is impractical."
- 93 (d) In IFC, Chapter 5, a new Section 507.1.2, Pre-existing subdivision lots, is added as follows:
94 "507.1.2 Pre-existing subdivision lots.
95 The requirements for a pre-existing subdivision lot shall not exceed the requirements
96 described in Section 501.5."

- 97 (e) In IFC, Chapter 5, Section 507.5.1, here required, a new exception is added: "3. One
98 interior and one detached accessory dwelling unit on a single residential lot."
- 99 (f) IFC, Chapter 5, Section 510.1, Emergency responder communication coverage in
100 new buildings, is amended by adding: "When required by the fire code official,
101 unless the new building is a public school as that term is defined in Section
102 53G-9-205.1 or a private school, then the fire code official shall require," at the
103 beginning of the first paragraph.
- 104 (2) For IFC, Chapter 6, Building Services and Systems:
- 105 (a) IFC, Chapter 6, Section 604.6.1, Elevator key location, is deleted and rewritten as
106 follows: "Firefighter service keys shall be kept in a "Supra-Stor-a-key" elevator key
107 box or similar box with corresponding key system that is adjacent to the elevator for
108 immediate use by the fire department. The key box shall contain one key for each
109 elevator, one key for lobby control, and any other keys necessary for emergency
110 service. The elevator key box shall be accessed using a 6049 numbered key."
- 111 (b) IFC, Chapter 6, Section 606.1, General, is amended as follows: On line three, after
112 the word "Code", add the words "and NFPA 96".
- 113 (c) IFC, Chapter 6, Section 607.2, a new exception 5 is added as follows: "5. A Type 1
114 hood is not required for a cooking appliance in a microenterprise home kitchen, as
115 that term is defined in Utah Code, Section 26B-7-401, for which the operator obtains
116 a permit in accordance with Section 26B-7-416."
- 117 (3) IFC, Chapter 7, Fire and Smoke Protection Features, Section 702.5, is deleted.
118 Section 2. Section **17-16-22** is enacted to read:
119 **17-16-22 . Wildland urban interface evaluation and fees.**
- 120 (1) As used in this section:
- 121 (a) "County officer" means the same as that term is defined in Section 17-16-21.
- 122 (b) "High risk wildland urban interface property" means the same as that term is defined
123 in Section 65A-8-401.
- 124 (c) "Wildland urban interface" means the same as that term is defined in Section
125 65A-8-401.
- 126 (d) "Wildland urban interface coordinator" means the same as that term is defined in
127 Section 65A-8-401.
- 128 (2) If evaluation of high risk wildland urban interface property is assigned to a county under
129 Section 65A-8-402:
- 130 (a) the county shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the Division of Forestry,

- 131 Fire, and State Lands, in accordance with Subsection 65A-8-203(2)(a), which
 132 agreement shall address compliance with this Subsection (2) for evaluation and
 133 classification of high risk wildland urban interface property; and
- 134 (b) a county officer shall require that a wildland urban interface coordinator representing
 135 the county annually evaluate high risk wildland urban interface property within the
 136 county in accordance with Section 65A-8-402.
- 137 (3) Beginning January 1, 2026, a county officer shall:
- 138 (a) annually assess a fee:
- 139 (i) against the property owner of high risk wildland urban interface property within
 140 the incorporated and unincorporated portions of the county; and
- 141 (ii) in the amount set by the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands under Section
 142 65A-8-402; and
- 143 (b)(i) after retaining a portion of the fee under Subsection (3)(b)(ii), transmit the fee
 144 assessed under Subsection (3)(a) to the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands
 145 for deposit into the Wildland-urban Interface Prevention, Preparedness, and
 146 Mitigation Fund created in Section 65A-8-215; and
- 147 (ii) retain that portion of the fee assessed under Subsection (3)(a) necessary to pay
 148 costs incurred by the county in implementing this section, which the county may
 149 include in the county's annual accounting of wildfire prevention, preparedness,
 150 mitigation actions, and associated costs for purposes of Subsection
 151 65A-8-203(4)(c).
- 152 (4) A county may hold a political subdivision lien on high risk wildland urban interface
 153 property for a fee that is past due by following the procedures in Sections 17B-1-902
 154 and 17B-1-902.1, as if the county is a special district.
- 155 Section 3. Section **31A-22-1310** is enacted to read:
- 156 **31A-22-1310 . Insuring wildland urban interface property.**
- 157 (1) As used in this section:
- 158 (a) "High risk wildland urban interface property" means the same as that term is defined
 159 in Section 65A-8-401.
- 160 (b) "Wildland urban interface" means the same as that term is defined in Section
 161 65A-8-401.
- 162 (c) "Wildland urban interface property and casualty insurer" means an insurer that issues
 163 property or casualty insurance for wildland urban interface property.
- 164 (2)(a) For purposes of determining whether property is high risk wildland urban

165 interface property, a wildland urban interface property and casualty insurer may only
166 use the boundary provided in the wildfire risk assessment mapping tool maintained
167 by the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands in accordance with Subsection
168 65A-8-203(8) to determine whether the property is high risk wildland urban interface
169 property.

170 (b) A wildland urban interface property and casualty insurer may use additional fire
171 hazard data, beyond the wildfire risk assessment mapping tool described in
172 Subsection (2)(a), in connection with setting a rate for, or the underwriting of, high
173 risk wildland urban interface property if the wildland urban interface property and
174 casualty insurer's use of additional fire hazard data is in compliance with:

175 (i) the boundary determination made in Subsection (2)(a); and

176 (ii) this title and department rules made in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3,
177 Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.

178 (c) If a property is determined not to be high risk wildland urban interface in accordance
179 with Subsection (2)(a), this Subsection (2) does not apply to the use of fire hazard
180 data in connection with rate setting or underwriting of the property.

181 (d) This Subsection (2) does not restrict the use of data or underwriting tools in
182 determining risks that are unrelated to fire risk.

183 (3)(a) If an owner of property located within the wildland urban interface files a
184 complaint with the department asserting that a wildland urban interface property and
185 casualty insurer has violated, or is violating, this section, the department may
186 investigate the wildland urban interface property and casualty insurer to determine
187 whether a violation has occurred or is occurring.

188 (b) If after an investigation under this Subsection (3) the department finds that a
189 wildland urban interface property and casualty insurer has violated or is violating this
190 section, the department may:

191 (i) issue prohibitory, mandatory, and other orders as necessary to secure compliance
192 with this section; and

193 (ii) impose penalties against the wildland urban interface property and casualty
194 insurer in accordance with Section 31A-2-308.

195 (4) In addition to complying with relevant requirements of Section 31A-21-303, if due to
196 risks of wildfire a wildland urban interface property and casualty insurer:

197 (a) Cancels or nonrenews property and casualty insurance covering wildland urban
198 interface property, the wildland urban interface property and casualty insurer shall

199 include in the notice of cancellation or nonrenewal the facts on which the wildland
 200 urban interface property and casualty insurer's decision is based with reasonable
 201 precision; and

202 (b) increases the premium by more than 20% of the previous term's premium for
 203 property and casualty insurance covering wildland urban interface property, after
 204 receipt of a request for the information by the insured the wildland urban interface
 205 property and casualty insurer shall provide the insured the facts on which the
 206 wildland urban interface property and casualty insurer's decision is based with
 207 reasonable precision.

208 (5) Subsections (1) through (4) apply on and after January 1, 2026.

209 (6) This section does not:

210 (a) create a cause of action for an act or failure to act under this section against:

211 (i) the state;

212 (ii) the department;

213 (iii) the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands;

214 (iv) an officer, consultant, or employee of the department or Division of Forestry,
 215 Fire, and State Lands;

216 (v) a wildland urban interface coordinator, as defined in Section 65A-8-401; or

217 (vi) a county;

218 (b) wave governmental immunity in accordance with Subsection 63G-7-201(5); or

219 (c) create a cause of action against a wildland urban interface property and casualty
 220 insurer for use in accordance with Subsection (2)(a) of the boundary provided in the
 221 wildfire risk assessment mapping tool maintained by the Division of Forestry, Fire,
 222 and State Lands in accordance with Subsection 65A-8-203(8).

223 Section 4. Section **63G-7-201** is amended to read:

224 **63G-7-201 . Immunity of governmental entities and employees from suit.**

225 (1) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, each governmental entity and each
 226 employee of a governmental entity are immune from suit for any injury that results from
 227 the exercise of a governmental function.

228 (2) Notwithstanding the waiver of immunity provisions of Section 63G-7-301, a
 229 governmental entity, its officers, and its employees are immune from suit:

230 (a) as provided in Section 78B-4-517; and

231 (b) for any injury or damage resulting from the implementation of or the failure to
 232 implement measures to:

- 233 (i) control the causes of epidemic and communicable diseases and other conditions
234 significantly affecting the public health or necessary to protect the public health as
235 set out in Title 26A, Chapter 1, Local Health Departments;
- 236 (ii) investigate and control suspected bioterrorism and disease as set out in Sections
237 26B-7-316 through 26B-7-324;
- 238 (iii) respond to a national, state, or local emergency, a public health emergency as
239 defined in Section 26B-7-301, or a declaration by the President of the United
240 States or other federal official requesting public health related activities, including
241 the use, provision, operation, and management of:
- 242 (A) an emergency shelter;
- 243 (B) housing;
- 244 (C) a staging place; or
- 245 (D) a medical facility; and
- 246 (iv) adopt methods or measures, in accordance with Section 26B-1-202, for health
247 care providers, public health entities, and health care insurers to coordinate among
248 themselves to verify the identity of the individuals they serve.
- 249 (3)(a) A governmental entity, its officers, and its employees are immune from suit, and
250 immunity is not waived, for any injury if the injury arises out of or in connection
251 with, or results from:
- 252 (i) a latent dangerous or latent defective condition of:
- 253 (A) any highway, road, street, alley, crosswalk, sidewalk, culvert, tunnel, bridge,
254 or viaduct; or
- 255 (B) another structure located on any of the items listed in this Subsection (3)(a)(i);
256 or
- 257 (ii) a latent dangerous or latent defective condition of any public building, structure,
258 dam, reservoir, or other public improvement.
- 259 (b)(i) As used in this Subsection (3)(b):
- 260 (A) "Contaminated land" means the same as that term is defined in Section
261 11-58-102.
- 262 (B) "Contamination" means the condition of land that results from the placement,
263 disposal, or release of hazardous matter on, in, or under the land, including any
264 seeping or escaping of the hazardous matter from the land.
- 265 (C) "Damage" means any property damage, personal injury, or other injury or any
266 loss of any kind, however denominated.

- 267 (D) "Environmentally compliant" means, as applicable, obtaining a certificate of
268 completion from the Department of Environmental Quality under Section
269 19-8-111 following participation in a voluntary cleanup under Title 19, Chapter
270 8, Voluntary Cleanup Program, obtaining an administrative letter from the
271 Department of Environmental Quality for a discrete phase of a voluntary
272 cleanup that is conducted under a remedial action plan as defined in Section
273 11-58-605, or complying with the terms of an environmental covenant, as
274 defined in Section 57-25-102, signed by an agency, as defined in Section
275 57-25-102, and duly recorded in the office of the recorder of the county in
276 which the contaminated land is located.
- 277 (E) "Government owner" means a governmental entity, including an independent
278 entity, as defined in Section 63E-1-102, that acquires an ownership interest in
279 land that was contaminated land before the governmental entity or independent
280 entity acquired an ownership interest in the land.
- 281 (F) "Hazardous matter" means hazardous materials, as defined in Section 19-6-302,
282 hazardous substances, as defined in Section 19-6-302, or landfill material, as
283 defined in Section 11-58-102.
- 284 (G) "Remediation" means the same as that term is defined in Section 11-58-102.
- 285 (ii)(A) A government owner and the government owner's officers and employees
286 are immune from suit, and immunity is not waived, for any claim for damage
287 that arises out of or in connection with, or results from, contamination of
288 contaminated land.
- 289 (B) A government owner's ownership of contaminated land may not be the basis
290 of a claim against the government owner for damage that arises out of or in
291 connection with, or results from, contamination of contaminated land.
- 292 (iii) Subsection (3)(b)(ii) does not limit or affect:
- 293 (A) the liability of a person that placed, disposed of, or released hazardous matter
294 on, in, or under the land; or
- 295 (B) a worker compensation claim of an employee of an entity that conducts work
296 on or related to contaminated land.
- 297 (iv) Immunity under Subsection (3)(b)(ii)(A) is not affected by a government owner's
298 remediation of contaminated land if the government owner is environmentally
299 compliant.
- 300 (4) A governmental entity, its officers, and its employees are immune from suit, and

- 301 immunity is not waived, for any injury proximately caused by a negligent act or
302 omission of an employee committed within the scope of employment, if the injury arises
303 out of or in connection with, or results from:
- 304 (a) the exercise or performance, or the failure to exercise or perform, a discretionary
305 function, whether or not the discretion is abused;
 - 306 (b) except as provided in Subsections 63G-7-301(2)(j), (3), and (4), assault, battery,
307 false imprisonment, false arrest, malicious prosecution, intentional trespass, abuse of
308 process, libel, slander, deceit, interference with contract rights, infliction of mental
309 anguish, or violation of civil rights;
 - 310 (c) the issuance, denial, suspension, or revocation of, or the failure or refusal to issue,
311 deny, suspend, or revoke, any permit, license, certificate, approval, order, or similar
312 authorization;
 - 313 (d) a failure to make an inspection or making an inadequate or negligent inspection;
 - 314 (e) the institution or prosecution of any judicial or administrative proceeding, even if
315 malicious or without probable cause;
 - 316 (f) a misrepresentation by an employee whether or not the misrepresentation is negligent
317 or intentional;
 - 318 (g) a riot, unlawful assembly, public demonstration, mob violence, or civil disturbance;
 - 319 (h) the collection or assessment of taxes;
 - 320 (i) an activity of the Utah National Guard;
 - 321 (j) the incarceration of a person in a state prison, county or city jail, or other place of
322 legal confinement;
 - 323 (k) a natural condition on publicly owned or controlled land;
 - 324 (l) a condition existing in connection with an abandoned mine or mining operation;
 - 325 (m) an activity authorized by the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration or
326 the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands;
 - 327 (n) the operation or existence of a trail that is along a water facility, as defined in Section
328 73-1-8, stream, or river, regardless of ownership or operation of the water facility,
329 stream, or river, if:
 - 330 (i) the trail is designated under a general plan adopted by a municipality under
331 Section 10-9a-401 or by a county under Section 17-27a-401;
 - 332 (ii) the trail right-of-way or the right-of-way where the trail is located is open to
333 public use as evidenced by a written agreement between:
 - 334 (A) the owner or operator of the trail right-of-way or of the right-of-way where the

- 335 trail is located; and
- 336 (B) the municipality or county where the trail is located; and
- 337 (iii) the written agreement:
- 338 (A) contains a plan for operation and maintenance of the trail; and
- 339 (B) provides that an owner or operator of the trail right-of-way or of the
- 340 right-of-way where the trail is located has, at a minimum, the same level of
- 341 immunity from suit as the governmental entity in connection with or resulting
- 342 from the use of the trail;
- 343 (o) research or implementation of cloud management or seeding for the clearing of fog;
- 344 (p) the management of flood waters, earthquakes, or natural disasters;
- 345 (q) the construction, repair, or operation of flood or storm systems;
- 346 (r) the operation of an emergency vehicle, while being driven in accordance with the
- 347 requirements of Section 41-6a-212;
- 348 (s) the activity of:
- 349 (i) providing emergency medical assistance;
- 350 (ii) fighting fire;
- 351 (iii) regulating, mitigating, or handling hazardous materials or hazardous wastes;
- 352 (iv) an emergency evacuation;
- 353 (v) transporting or removing an injured person to a place where emergency medical
- 354 assistance can be rendered or where the person can be transported by a licensed
- 355 ambulance service; or
- 356 (vi) intervening during a dam emergency;
- 357 (t) the exercise or performance, or the failure to exercise or perform, any function
- 358 pursuant to Title 73, Chapter 10, Board of Water Resources - Division of Water
- 359 Resources;
- 360 (u) an unauthorized access to government records, data, or electronic information
- 361 systems by any person or entity;
- 362 (v) an activity of wildlife, as defined in Section 23A-1-101, that arises during the use of
- 363 a public or private road;
- 364 (w) a communication between employees of one or more law enforcement agencies
- 365 related to the employment, disciplinary history, character, professional competence,
- 366 or physical or mental health of a peace officer, or a former, current, or prospective
- 367 employee of a law enforcement agency, including any communication made in
- 368 accordance with Section 53-14-103; or

369 (x) providing or failing to provide information under Section 53-27-102 or Subsection
370 41-1a-213(6), (7), or (8), 53-3-207(4), or 53-3-805(5).

371 (5) The following are immune from suit, and immunity is not waived for an action or
372 failure to act within the scope of duties or employment, if the injury arises out of, in
373 connection with, or results from the implementation of Section 17-16-22 to the extent it
374 addresses evaluating and classifying high risk wildland urban interface property, Section
375 31A-22-1310, or Title 65A, Chapter 8, Part 4, Wildland Urban Interface Property:

376 (a) the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands;

377 (b) an officer, employee, or consultant of the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands;

378 (c) a county;

379 (d) a wildland urban interface coordinator, as defined in Section 65A-8-401;

380 (e) the Insurance Department; or

381 (f) an officer, employee, or consultant of the Insurance Department.

382 Section 5. Section **65A-8-203** is amended to read:

383 **65A-8-203 . Cooperative fire protection agreements with eligible entities.**

384 (1) As used in this section:

385 (a) "Eligible entity" means:

386 (i) a county, a municipality, or a special service district, special district, or service
387 area with:

388 (A) wildland fire suppression responsibility as described in Section 11-7-1; and

389 (B) wildland fire suppression cost responsibility and taxing authority for a specific
390 geographic jurisdiction; or

391 (ii) upon approval by the director, a political subdivision established by a county,
392 municipality, special service district, special district, or service area that is
393 responsible for:

394 (A) providing wildland fire suppression services; and

395 (B) paying for the cost of wildland fire suppression services.

396 (b) "Fire service provider" means a public or private entity that fulfills the duties of
397 Subsection 11-7-1(1).

398 (2)(a) The governing body of any eligible entity may enter into a cooperative agreement
399 with the division to receive financial and wildfire management cooperation and
400 assistance from the division, as described in this part.

401 (b) A cooperative agreement shall last for a term of no more than five years and be
402 renewable if the eligible entity continues to meet the requirements of this chapter.

- 403 (3)(a) The state shall assume an eligible entity's cost of suppressing catastrophic wildfire
 404 as defined in the cooperative agreement if the eligible entity has entered into, and is
 405 in full compliance with, a cooperative agreement with the division, as described in
 406 this section.
- 407 (b) A county or municipality that is not covered by a cooperative agreement with the
 408 division, as described in this section, shall be responsible for wildland fire costs
 409 within the county or municipality's jurisdiction, as described in Section 65A-8-203.2.
- 410 (4) To enter into a cooperative agreement with the division, the eligible entity shall:
- 411 ~~[(a) if the eligible entity is a county, adopt and enforce on unincorporated land a~~
 412 ~~wildland fire ordinance based upon minimum standards established by the division or~~
 413 ~~Uniform Building Code Commission;]~~
- 414 ~~[(b)]~~ (a) require that the fire department or equivalent fire service provider under contract
 415 with, or delegated by, the eligible entity on unincorporated land meet minimum
 416 standards for wildland fire training, certification, and suppression equipment based
 417 upon nationally accepted standards as specified by the division;
- 418 ~~[(c)]~~ (b) invest in prevention, preparedness, and mitigation efforts, as agreed to with the
 419 division, that will reduce the eligible entity's risk of catastrophic wildfire;
- 420 ~~[(d)]~~ (c)(i) file with the division an annual accounting of wildfire prevention,
 421 preparedness, mitigation actions, and associated costs;
- 422 (ii) meet the eligibility entity's participation commitment by making direct payments
 423 to the division; or
- 424 (iii) do a combination of Subsections ~~[(4)(d)(i) and (ii)]~~ (4)(c)(i) and (ii);
- 425 ~~[(e)]~~ (d) return the financial statement described in Subsection (6), signed by the chief
 426 executive of the eligible entity, to the division on or before the date set by the
 427 division;~~and]~~
- 428 ~~[(f)]~~ (e) if the eligible entity is a county, have a designated fire warden as described in
 429 Section 65A-8-209.1~~[-]~~ ;
- 430 (f) subject to Subsection (9), adopt and enforce the wildland urban interface building
 431 standards, as defined in Section 65A-8-401, if the eligible entity is a:
- 432 (i) county for purposes of an unincorporated area within the county; or
 433 (ii) municipality for an incorporated area within a county; and
- 434 (g) if the eligible entity is a county, comply with Section 17-16-22.
- 435 (5)(a) The state forester may execute a cooperative agreement with the eligible entity.
- 436 (b) The division shall make rules, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah

- 437 Administrative Rulemaking Act, governing the:
- 438 (i) cooperative agreements described in this section;
- 439 (ii) manner in which an eligible entity shall provide proof of compliance with
- 440 Subsection (4);
- 441 (iii) manner by which the division may revoke a cooperative agreement if an eligible
- 442 entity ceases to meet the requirements described in this section;
- 443 (iv) accounting system for determining suppression costs;
- 444 (v) manner in which the division shall determine the eligible entity's participation
- 445 commitment; and
- 446 (vi) manner in which an eligible entity may appeal a division determination.
- 447 (6)(a) The division shall send a financial statement to each eligible entity participating in
- 448 a cooperative agreement that details the eligible entity's participation commitment for
- 449 the coming fiscal year, including the prevention, preparedness, and mitigation actions
- 450 agreed to under Subsection (4)~~(e)~~ (b).
- 451 (b) Each eligible entity participating in a cooperative agreement shall:
- 452 (i) have the chief executive of the eligible entity sign the financial statement, or the
- 453 legislative body of the eligible entity approve the financial statement by
- 454 resolution, confirming the eligible entity's participation for the upcoming year; and
- 455 (ii) return the financial statement to the division, on or before a date set by the
- 456 division.
- 457 (c) A financial statement shall be effective for one calendar year, beginning on the date
- 458 set by the division, as described in Subsection (6)(b).
- 459 (7)(a) An eligible entity may revoke a cooperative agreement before the end of the
- 460 cooperative agreement's term by:
- 461 (i) informing the division, in writing, of the eligible entity's intention to revoke the
- 462 cooperative agreement; or
- 463 (ii) failing to sign and return its annual financial statement, as described in
- 464 Subsection (6)(b), unless the director grants an extension.
- 465 (b) An eligible entity may not revoke a cooperative agreement before the end of the term
- 466 of a signed annual financial statement, as described in Subsection (6)(c).
- 467 (8)(a) The division shall develop and maintain a wildfire risk assessment mapping tool
- 468 that is online and publicly accessible.
- 469 (b)~~(i)~~ The division shall analyze ~~[adding an additional high-risk category]~~ and
- 470 establish by rule, made in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah

- 471 Administrative Rulemaking Act, boundaries for high risk wildland urban interface
472 property and what constitutes wildland urban interface property that is not high
473 risk within the wildfire risk assessment mapping tool described in Subsection
474 (8)(a):
- 475 [~~(A)~~] (i) using a scientific assessment; and
476 [~~(B)~~] (ii) that is focused on the risk to dwellings within the wildland[-] urban interface
477 area.
- 478 [~~(ii) The division shall report the results of the division's analysis under this~~
479 ~~Subsection (8)(b) to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim~~
480 ~~Committee by no later than the 2024 November interim meeting of that committee.]~~
- 481 (c) With regard to the categories used within the wildfire risk assessment mapping tool
482 described in Subsection (8)(a), the division may adjust the assessment for
483 participation commitments if the adjustment is based on the Consumer Price Index
484 for All Urban Consumers as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the
485 United States Department of Labor, in accordance with a formula established by the
486 division by rule made in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative
487 Rulemaking Act.
- 488 (9)(a) If the state under Section 15A-2-103 adopts an edition of the Utah Wildland
489 Urban Interface Code, issued by the International Code Council, with the alternatives
490 or amendments approved by the division, as a wildland urban interface building
491 standard that may be adopted by a local compliance agency:
- 492 (i) for purposes of an unincorporated area within a county, the county shall adopt and
493 enforce the wildland urban interface building standard described in this
494 Subsection (9)(a); and
- 495 (ii) for purposes of an incorporated area within a county, the relevant municipality
496 shall adopt and enforce the wildland urban interface building standard described
497 in this Subsection (9)(a).
- 498 (b) If a county or municipality fails to comply with Subsections (4)(f) and (9)(a), the
499 division may choose to not pay costs of the county or municipality under a
500 cooperative agreement executed under this section.
- 501 (c)(i) If the state adopts a different wildland urban interface building standard than
502 was previously adopted under Section 15A-2-103, a county or municipality has
503 two years from the date the state adopts the different wildland urban interface
504 building standard to adopt the appropriate wildland urban interface building

505 standard.

506 (ii) If a county or municipality fails to adopt the appropriate wildland urban interface

507 building standard within the time period described in Subsection (9)(c)(i), the

508 division may choose to not pay costs of the county or municipality under a

509 cooperative agreement executed under this section beginning two years from the

510 day on which the state adopts the different wildland urban interface building

511 standard and until such time as the county or municipality adopts the appropriate

512 wildland urban interface building standard.

513 Section 6. Section **65A-8-215** is amended to read:

514 **65A-8-215 . Wildland-urban interface fire prevention, preparedness, and**

515 **mitigation.**

516 (1) As used in this section:

517 (a) "Prevention, preparedness, and mitigation fund" means the Wildland-urban Interface

518 Prevention, Preparedness, and Mitigation Fund created in this section.

519 (b) "Suppression fund" means the Wildland Fire Suppression Fund created in Section

520 65A-8-204.

521 (c) "Wildland-urban interface" means the zone where structures and other human

522 development meets, or intermingles with, undeveloped wildland.

523 (2)(a) There is created an expendable special revenue fund known as the

524 "Wildland-urban Interface Prevention, Preparedness, and Mitigation Fund."

525 (b) The prevention, preparedness, and mitigation fund shall consist of:

526 (i) interest and earnings from the investment of money from the prevention,

527 preparedness, and mitigation fund;

528 (ii) money received as direct payment from cooperative wildfire system participation

529 commitments;

530 (iii) money appropriated by the Legislature; [~~and~~]

531 (iv) money transferred to the prevention, preparedness, and mitigation fund under

532 Section 63J-1-314[-] ; and

533 (v) fees deposited into the prevention, preparedness, and mitigation fund under

534 Section 17-16-22.

535 (c) The division shall administer the prevention, preparedness, and mitigation fund to:

536 (i) pay costs of prevention and preparedness efforts on wildland-urban interface

537 within the state, as defined by the division by rule made in accordance with Title

538 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, including costs of an

- 539 eligible entity that has entered into a cooperative agreement, as described in
 540 Section 65A-8-203;
- 541 (ii) issue fire department assistance grants, which in the aggregate may not exceed
 542 10% of the money in the prevention, preparedness, and mitigation fund each fiscal
 543 year; and
- 544 (iii) in cases of catastrophic need as determined by the state forester, pay costs that
 545 could be paid from the suppression fund under Section 65A-8-204.
- 546 (d) Disbursements from the prevention, preparedness, and mitigation fund may only be
 547 made upon written order of the state forester or the state forester's authorized
 548 representative.
- 549 (3)(a) The division may by rule, made in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah
 550 Administrative Rulemaking Act, establish criteria for community wildfire
 551 preparedness plans addressing wildland-urban interface. The criteria shall require
 552 action that is:
- 553 (i) qualitative and quantitative; and
 554 (ii) leads to reduced wildfire risk.
- 555 (b) An eligible entity, as defined in Section 65A-8-203, shall agree to implement
 556 prevention, preparedness, and mitigation actions identified in a community wildfire
 557 preparedness plan addressing wildland-urban interface that is approved by the
 558 division.

559 Section 7. Section **65A-8-401** is enacted to read:

560 **Part 4. Wildland Urban Interface Property**

561 **65A-8-401 . Definitions.**

562 As used in this section:

- 563 (1) "High risk wildland urban interface property" means property located within the
 564 boundary of high risk wildland urban interface as designated by the wildfire risk
 565 assessment tool in Subsection 65A-8-203(8)(a) and defined by rule made in accordance
 566 with Subsection 65A-8-402(5)(a).
- 567 (2) "Triage scale" means a scale with three classifications adopted by the division to
 568 evaluate and classify property located within the wildland urban interface as to what
 569 actions are needed to prepare the property for fire.
- 570 (3) "Wildland urban interface" means the same as that term is defined in Section
 571 65A-8a-102.
- 572 (4) "Wildland urban interface building standards" means the edition of the Utah Wildland

573 Urban Interface Code adopted under Section 15A-2-103.

574 (5) "Wildland urban interface coordinator" means a representative of the division or a
575 county who evaluates and classifies wildland urban interface property in accordance
576 with Section 65A-8-402.

577 (6) "Wildland urban interface property and casualty insurer" means the same as that term is
578 defined in Section 31A-22-1310.

579 Section 8. Section **65A-8-402** is enacted to read:

580 **65A-8-402 . Evaluation of wildland urban interface property -- Fee amounts --**

581 **Rulemaking.**

582 (1)(a) The division shall establish a program under which a wildland urban interface
583 coordinator evaluates and classifies high risk wildland urban interface property using
584 a triage scale.

585 (b) The wildland urban interface coordinator shall be:

586 (i) a representative of the division; or

587 (ii) if the evaluation and classification is assigned to a county, a representative of the
588 county.

589 (c) At the beginning of each calendar year, the division shall determine whether to
590 assign evaluation and classification under this section of high risk wildland urban
591 interface property to a county.

592 (2) After completing the evaluation and classification under this section, the wildland urban
593 interface coordinator shall inform a property owner of property described in Subsection
594 (1)(a) of:

595 (a) the classification assigned to the property described in Subsection (1)(a) under the
596 triage scale;

597 (b) the fee the property owner shall pay under Section 17-16-22; and

598 (c) resources from the division or county that the property owner may access to bring the
599 property described in Subsection (1)(a) to the first or second classification by
600 applying wildland urban interface building standards.

601 (3) As part of the program established under this section, the division:

602 (a) may provide resources to a property owner described in Subsection (2)(b) to
603 facilitate the property owner bringing the property described in Subsection (1)(a) to
604 the first or second classification under the triage scale; and

605 (b) beginning on January 1, 2028, shall develop and maintain a database that may be
606 accessed by a wildland urban interface property and casualty insurer to learn the

607 classification under the triage scale for any portion of high risk wildland urban
608 interface property to be covered by the wildland urban interface property and casualty
609 insurer.

610 (4)(a) The division shall annually set a fee amount that is based on the square footage of
611 a structure within the high risk wildland urban interface to pay for the costs
612 associated with the implementation of this part to be assessed and collected by a
613 county in accordance with Section 17-16-22.

614 (b) The division may tier the fee amount to account for what level on the triage scale a
615 property is assigned by a wildland urban interface coordinator.

616 (5) The division may make rules, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah
617 Administrative Rulemaking Act, to:

618 (a) define high risk wildland urban interface property and wildland urban interface
619 property that is not high risk as provided in Subsection 65A-8-203(8)(b);

620 (b) establish the criteria used to evaluate and classify property located within high risk
621 wildland urban interface property;

622 (c) create a process by which the division and counties communicate classifications
623 assigned to property described in Subsection (1)(a);

624 (d) create a process for communicating to a property owner the information described in
625 Subsection (2);

626 (e) establish how the division may provide resources under Subsection (3);

627 (f) create a process for a wildland urban interface property and casualty insurer to learn
628 the classification described in Subsection (3)(b); and

629 (g) establish how the fee amount described in Subsection (4) is set.

630 Section 9. Section **65A-8-403** is enacted to read:

631 **65A-8-403 . Liability.**

632 This part does not create a cause of action against the state, the division, an officer,
633 employee, or consultant of the division, a county, or a wildland urban interface coordinator for
634 an act or failure to act under this part and does not waive governmental immunity in
635 accordance with Subsection 63G-7-201(5).

636 Section 10. **Effective Date.**

637 This bill takes effect on January 1, 2026.