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**FIRE AMENDMENTS**  
2024 GENERAL SESSION  
STATE OF UTAH  
**Chief Sponsor: Casey Snider**  
Senate Sponsor: Michael K. McKell

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill modifies provisions concerning control and funding related to fire.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- modifies provisions related to calculating amounts to be transferred to a Medicaid fund and the Wildland-urban Interface Prevention, Preparedness, and Mitigation Fund;
- modifies definitions related to the State Appropriations and Tax Limitation Act and the Wildland-urban Interface Prevention, Preparedness, and Mitigation Fund;
- addresses timing of transfers related to the Industrial Assistance Account and the Wildland-urban Interface Prevention, Preparedness, and Mitigation Fund;
- modifies provisions related to cooperative fire protection agreements;
- requires the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands to analyze certain issues related to the wildfire risk assessment mapping tool;
- permits adjustments to participation commitments based on the wildfire risk assessment mapping tool;
- adjusts the calculation for billing a county or municipality without a cooperative agreement;
- modifies money to be deposited into the Wildland-urban Interface Prevention, Preparedness, and Mitigation Fund; and
- makes technical changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

This bill appropriates in fiscal year 2025:

- to Department of Natural Resources - Wildland Fire Suppression Fund as a one-time appropriation:

- 28           • from the General Fund, One-time, (\$4,000,000)
- 29           ▸ to Department of Natural Resources - Wildland-urban Interface Prevention, Preparedness and
- 30           Mitigation Fund as a one-time appropriation:
- 31           • from the General Fund, One-time, \$4,000,000

32 **Other Special Clauses:**

33           None

34 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

35 AMENDS:

36           **63J-1-315**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 329

37           **63J-3-103**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 456

38           **63N-3-106**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 499

39           **65A-8-203**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 16

40           **65A-8-203.2**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2016, Chapter 174

41           **65A-8-215**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 153

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

44           Section 1. Section **63J-1-315** is amended to read:

45           **63J-1-315 . Medicaid Growth Reduction and Budget Stabilization Account --**  
 46 **Transfers of Medicaid growth savings -- Base budget adjustments.**

47 (1) As used in this section:

- 48           (a) "Department" means the Department of Health and Human Services created in  
 49           Section 26B-1-201.
- 50           (b) "Division" means the Division of Integrated Healthcare created in Section 26B-3-102.
- 51           (c) "General Fund revenue surplus" means a situation where actual General Fund  
 52           revenues collected in a completed fiscal year exceed the estimated revenues for the  
 53           General Fund for that fiscal year that were adopted by the Executive Appropriations  
 54           Committee of the Legislature.
- 55           (d) "Medicaid growth savings" means the Medicaid growth target minus Medicaid  
 56           program expenditures, if Medicaid program expenditures are less than the Medicaid  
 57           growth target.
- 58           (e) "Medicaid growth target" means Medicaid program expenditures for the previous  
 59           year multiplied by 1.08.
- 60           (f) "Medicaid program" is as defined in Section 26B-3-101.
- 61           (g) "Medicaid program expenditures" means total state revenue expended for the

- 62 Medicaid program from the General Fund, including restricted accounts within the  
63 General Fund, during a fiscal year.
- 64 (h) "Medicaid program expenditures for the previous year" means total state revenue  
65 expended for the Medicaid program from the General Fund, including restricted  
66 accounts within the General Fund, during the fiscal year immediately preceding a  
67 fiscal year for which Medicaid program expenditures are calculated.
- 68 (i) "Operating deficit" means that, at the end of the fiscal year, the unassigned fund  
69 balance in the General Fund is less than zero.
- 70 (j) "State revenue" means revenue other than federal revenue.
- 71 (k) "State revenue expended for the Medicaid program" includes money transferred or  
72 appropriated to the Medicaid Growth Reduction and Budget Stabilization Account  
73 only to the extent the money is appropriated for the Medicaid program by the  
74 Legislature.
- 75 (2) There is created within the General Fund a restricted account to be known as the  
76 Medicaid Growth Reduction and Budget Stabilization Account.
- 77 (3) (a) (i) Except as provided in Subsection (6), if, at the end of a fiscal year, there is  
78 a General Fund revenue surplus, the Division of Finance shall transfer an amount  
79 equal to Medicaid growth savings from the General Fund to the Medicaid Growth  
80 Reduction and Budget Stabilization Account.
- 81 (ii) If the amount transferred is reduced to prevent an operating deficit, as provided in  
82 Subsection (6), the Legislature shall include, to the extent revenue is available, an  
83 amount equal to the reduction as an appropriation from the General Fund to the  
84 account in the base budget for the second fiscal year following the fiscal year for  
85 which the reduction was made.
- 86 (b) If, at the end of a fiscal year, there is not a General Fund revenue surplus, the  
87 Legislature shall include, to the extent revenue is available, an amount equal to  
88 Medicaid growth savings as an appropriation from the General Fund to the account in  
89 the base budget for the second fiscal year following the fiscal year for which the  
90 reduction was made.
- 91 (c) Subsections (3)(a) and (3)(b) apply only to the fiscal year in which the department  
92 implements the proposal developed under Section 26B-3-202 to reduce the long-term  
93 growth in state expenditures for the Medicaid program, and to each fiscal year after  
94 that year.
- 95 (4) The Division of Finance shall calculate the amount to be transferred under Subsection

- 96 (3):
- 97 (a) before transferring revenue from the General Fund revenue surplus to:
- 98 (i) the General Fund Budget Reserve Account under Section 63J-1-312;
- 99 (ii) (A) the Wildland Fire Suppression Fund created in Section 65A-8-204, as
- 100 described in Section 63J-1-314; [~~and~~] or
- 101 (B) the Wildland-urban Interface Prevention, Preparedness, and Mitigation Fund
- 102 under Section 63J-1-314; and
- 103 (iii) the State Disaster Recovery Restricted Account under Section 63J-1-314;
- 104 (b) before earmarking revenue from the General Fund revenue surplus to the Industrial
- 105 Assistance Account under Section 63N-3-106; and
- 106 (c) before making any other year-end contingency appropriations, year-end set-asides, or
- 107 other year-end transfers required by law.
- 108 (5) (a) If, at the close of any fiscal year, there appears to be insufficient money to pay
- 109 additional debt service for any bonded debt authorized by the Legislature, the
- 110 Division of Finance may hold back from any General Fund revenue surplus money
- 111 sufficient to pay the additional debt service requirements resulting from issuance of
- 112 bonded debt that was authorized by the Legislature.
- 113 (b) The Division of Finance may not spend the hold back amount for debt service under
- 114 Subsection (5)(a) unless and until it is appropriated by the Legislature.
- 115 (c) If, after calculating the amount for transfer under Subsection (3), the remaining
- 116 General Fund revenue surplus is insufficient to cover the hold back for debt service
- 117 required by Subsection (5)(a), the Division of Finance shall reduce the transfer to the
- 118 Medicaid Growth Reduction and Budget Stabilization Account by the amount
- 119 necessary to cover the debt service hold back.
- 120 (d) Notwithstanding Subsections (3) and (4), the Division of Finance shall hold back the
- 121 General Fund balance for debt service authorized by this Subsection (5) before
- 122 making any transfers to the Medicaid Growth Reduction and Budget Stabilization
- 123 Account or any other designation or allocation of General Fund revenue surplus.
- 124 (6) Notwithstanding Subsections (3) and (4), if, at the end of a fiscal year, the Division of
- 125 Finance determines that an operating deficit exists and that holding back earmarks to the
- 126 Industrial Assistance Account under Section 63N-3-106, transfers to the Wildland Fire
- 127 Suppression Fund and State Disaster Recovery Restricted Account under Section
- 128 63J-1-314, transfers to the General Fund Budget Reserve Account under Section
- 129 63J-1-312, or earmarks and transfers to more than one of those accounts, in that order,

130 does not eliminate the operating deficit, the Division of Finance may reduce the transfer  
131 to the Medicaid Growth Reduction and Budget Stabilization Account by the amount  
132 necessary to eliminate the operating deficit.

133 (7) The Legislature may appropriate money from the Medicaid Growth Reduction and  
134 Budget Stabilization Account only:

135 (a) if Medicaid program expenditures for the fiscal year for which the appropriation is  
136 made are estimated to be 108% or more of Medicaid program expenditures for the  
137 previous year; and

138 (b) for the Medicaid program.

139 (8) The Division of Finance shall deposit interest or other earnings derived from investment  
140 of Medicaid Growth Reduction and Budget Stabilization Account money into the  
141 General Fund.

142 Section 2. Section **63J-3-103** is amended to read:

143 **63J-3-103 . Definitions.**

144 As used in this chapter:

145 (1) (a) "Appropriations" means actual unrestricted capital and operating appropriations  
146 from unrestricted General Fund and Income Tax Fund sources.

147 (b) "Appropriations" includes appropriations that are contingent upon available  
148 surpluses in the General Fund and Income Tax Fund.

149 (c) "Appropriations" does not mean:

150 (i) public education expenditures;

151 (ii) Utah Education and Telehealth Network expenditures in support of public  
152 education;

153 (iii) Utah Board of Higher Education expenditures in support of public education;

154 (iv) State Tax Commission expenditures related to collection of income taxes in  
155 support of public education;

156 (v) debt service expenditures;

157 (vi) emergency expenditures;

158 (vii) expenditures from all other fund or subfund sources;

159 (viii) transfers or appropriations from the Income Tax Fund to the Uniform School  
160 Fund;

161 (ix) transfers into, or appropriations made to, the General Fund Budget Reserve  
162 Account established in Section 63J-1-312;

163 (x) transfers into, or appropriations made to, the Income Tax Fund Budget Reserve

- 164 Account established in Section 63J-1-313;
- 165 (xi) transfers in accordance with Section 63J-1-314 into, or appropriations made to  
 166 the Wildland Fire Suppression Fund created in Section 65A-8-204 ~~[or]~~ , the  
 167 Wildland-urban Interface Prevention, Preparedness, and Mitigation Fund created  
 168 in Section 65A-8-215, or the State Disaster Recovery Restricted Account created  
 169 in Section 53-2a-603;
- 170 (xii) money appropriated to fund the total one-time project costs for the construction  
 171 of capital development projects as defined in Section 63A-5b-401;
- 172 (xiii) transfers or deposits into or appropriations made to the Centennial Highway  
 173 Fund created by Section 72-2-118;
- 174 (xiv) transfers or deposits into or appropriations made to the Transportation  
 175 Investment Fund of 2005 created by Section 72-2-124;
- 176 (xv) transfers or deposits into or appropriations made to:  
 177 (A) the Department of Transportation from any source; or  
 178 (B) any transportation-related account or fund from any source; or
- 179 (xvi) supplemental appropriations from the General Fund to the Division of Forestry,  
 180 Fire, and State Lands to provide money for wildland fire control expenses  
 181 incurred during the current or previous fire years.
- 182 (2) "Base year real per capita appropriations" means the result obtained for the state by  
 183 dividing the fiscal year 1985 actual appropriations of the state less debt money by:  
 184 (a) the state's July 1, 1983 population; and  
 185 (b) the fiscal year 1983 inflation index divided by 100.
- 186 (3) "Calendar year" means the time period beginning on January 1 of any given year and  
 187 ending on December 31 of the same year.
- 188 (4) "Fiscal emergency" means an extraordinary occurrence requiring immediate  
 189 expenditures and includes the settlement under Laws of Utah 1988, Fourth Special  
 190 Session, Chapter 4.
- 191 (5) "Fiscal year" means the time period beginning on July 1 of any given year and ending  
 192 on June 30 of the subsequent year.
- 193 (6) "Fiscal year 1985 actual base year appropriations" means fiscal year 1985 actual capital  
 194 and operations appropriations from General Fund and non-Uniform School Fund income  
 195 tax revenue sources, less debt money.
- 196 (7) "Inflation index" means the change in the general price level of goods and services as  
 197 measured by the Gross National Product Implicit Price Deflator of the Bureau of

- 198 Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce calculated as provided in Section  
199 63J-3-202.
- 200 (8) (a) "Maximum allowable appropriations limit" means the appropriations that could  
201 be, or could have been, spent in any given year under the limitations of this chapter.  
202 (b) "Maximum allowable appropriations limit" does not mean actual appropriations  
203 spent or actual expenditures.
- 204 (9) "Most recent fiscal year's inflation index" means the fiscal year inflation index two  
205 fiscal years previous to the fiscal year for which the maximum allowable inflation and  
206 population appropriations limit is being computed under this chapter.
- 207 (10) "Most recent fiscal year's population" means the fiscal year population two fiscal years  
208 previous to the fiscal year for which the maximum allowable inflation and population  
209 appropriations limit is being computed under this chapter.
- 210 (11) "Population" means the number of residents of the state as of July 1 of each year as  
211 calculated by the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget according to the procedures  
212 and requirements of Section 63J-3-202.
- 213 (12) "Revenues" means the revenues of the state from every tax, penalty, receipt, and other  
214 monetary exaction and interest connected with it that are recorded as unrestricted  
215 revenue of the General Fund and from non-Uniform School Fund income tax revenues,  
216 except as specifically exempted by this chapter.
- 217 (13) "Security" means any bond, note, warrant, or other evidence of indebtedness, whether  
218 or not the bond, note, warrant, or other evidence of indebtedness is or constitutes an  
219 "indebtedness" within the meaning of any provision of the constitution or laws of this  
220 state.

221 Section 3. Section **63N-3-106** is amended to read:

222 **63N-3-106 . Structure of loans, grants, and assistance -- Repayment -- Earned**  
223 **credits.**

- 224 (1) (a) Subject to Subsection (1)(b), the administrator has authority to determine the  
225 structure, amount, and nature of any loan, grant, or other financial assistance from the  
226 restricted account.
- 227 (b) Loans made under this part shall be structured so the intended repayment or return to  
228 the state, including cash or credit, equals at least the amount of the assistance  
229 together with an annual interest charge as negotiated by the administrator.
- 230 (c) Payments resulting from grants awarded from the restricted account shall be made  
231 only after the administrator has determined that the company has satisfied the

- 232 conditions upon which the payment or earned credit was based.
- 233 (2) (a) The administrator may provide for a system of earned credits that may be used to  
 234 support grant payments or in lieu of cash repayment of a restricted account loan  
 235 obligation.
- 236 (b) The value of the credits described in Subsection (2)(a) shall be based on factors  
 237 determined by the administrator, including:
- 238 (i) the number of Utah jobs created;
- 239 (ii) the increased economic activity in Utah; or
- 240 (iii) other events and activities that occur as a result of the restricted account  
 241 assistance.
- 242 (3) (a) A cash loan repayment or other cash recovery from a company receiving  
 243 assistance under this section, including interest, shall be deposited into the restricted  
 244 account.
- 245 (b) The administrator and the Division of Finance shall determine the manner of  
 246 recognizing and accounting for the earned credits used in lieu of loan repayments or  
 247 to support grant payments as provided in Subsection (2).
- 248 (4) (a) (i) At the end of each fiscal year, the Division of Finance shall set aside the  
 249 balance of the General Fund revenue surplus as defined in Section 63J-1-312 after  
 250 the transfers of General Fund revenue surplus described in Subsection (4)(b) to the  
 251 Industrial Assistance Account in an amount equal to any credit that has accrued  
 252 under this part.
- 253 (ii) The set aside under Subsection (4)(a)(i) shall be capped at \$50,000,000, at which  
 254 time no subsequent contributions may be made and any interest accrued above the  
 255 \$50,000,000 cap shall be deposited into the General Fund.
- 256 (b) The set aside required by Subsection (4)(a) shall be made after the transfer of surplus  
 257 General Fund revenue surplus is made to:
- 258 (i) ~~[to]~~ the Medicaid Growth Reduction and Budget Stabilization Restricted Account,  
 259 as provided in Section 63J-1-315;
- 260 (ii) ~~[to]~~ the General Fund Budget Reserve Account, as provided in Section 63J-1-312;  
 261 and
- 262 (iii) as provided in Section 63J-1-314:
- 263 (A) the Wildland Fire Suppression Fund or the Wildland-urban Interface  
 264 Prevention, Preparedness, and Mitigation Fund; and
- 265 (B) the State Disaster Recovery Restricted Account.

266            [(iii) to the Wildland Fire Suppression Fund or State Disaster Recovery Restricted  
267            Account, as provided in Section 63J-1-314.]

268            (c) These credit amounts may not be used for purposes of the restricted account as  
269            provided in this part until appropriated by the Legislature.

270            Section 4. Section **65A-8-203** is amended to read:

271            **65A-8-203 . Cooperative fire protection agreements with counties, cities, towns,  
272            or special service districts.**

273            (1) As used in this section:

274            (a) "Eligible entity" means:

275            (i) a county, a municipality, or a special service district, special district, or service  
276            area with:

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

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

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

283            (A) providing wildland fire suppression services; and

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

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

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

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

292            ~~[(3) (a) An eligible entity may not receive financial cooperation or financial assistance  
293            under Subsection (2)(a) until a cooperative agreement is executed by the eligible entity  
294            and the division.]~~

295            ~~[(b)]~~ (3) (a) The state shall assume an eligible entity's cost of suppressing catastrophic  
296            wildfire as defined in the cooperative agreement if the eligible entity has entered into,  
297            and is in full compliance with, a cooperative agreement with the division, as  
298            described in this section.

299            ~~[(e)]~~ (b) A county or municipality that is not covered by a cooperative agreement with

300 the division, as described in this section, shall be responsible for wildland fire costs  
301 within the county or municipality's jurisdiction, as described in Section 65A-8-203.2.

302 (4) ~~[In order to]~~ To enter into a cooperative agreement with the division, the eligible entity  
303 shall:

304 (a) if the eligible entity is a county, adopt and enforce on unincorporated land a wildland  
305 fire ordinance based upon minimum standards established by the division or Uniform  
306 Building Code Commission;

307 (b) require that the fire department or equivalent fire service provider under contract  
308 with, or delegated by, the eligible entity on unincorporated land meet minimum  
309 standards for wildland fire training, certification, and suppression equipment based  
310 upon nationally accepted standards as specified by the division;

311 (c) invest in prevention, preparedness, and mitigation efforts, as agreed to with the  
312 division, that will reduce the eligible entity's risk of catastrophic wildfire;

313 (d) (i) file with the division an annual accounting of wildfire prevention,  
314 preparedness, mitigation actions, and associated costs;

315 (ii) meet the eligibility entity's participation commitment by making direct payments  
316 to the division; or

317 (iii) do a combination of Subsections (4)(d)(i) and (ii);

318 (e) return the financial statement described in Subsection (6), signed by the chief  
319 executive of the eligible entity, to the division on or before the date set by the  
320 division; and

321 (f) if the eligible entity is a county, have a designated fire warden as described in Section  
322 65A-8-209.1.

323 (5) (a) The state forester may execute a cooperative agreement with the eligible entity.

324 (b) The division shall make rules, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah  
325 Administrative Rulemaking Act, governing the:

326 (i) cooperative agreements described in this section;

327 (ii) manner in which an eligible entity shall provide proof of compliance with  
328 Subsection (4);

329 (iii) manner by which the division may revoke a cooperative agreement if an eligible  
330 entity ceases to meet the requirements described in this section;

331 (iv) accounting system for determining suppression costs;

332 (v) manner in which the division shall determine the eligible entity's participation  
333 commitment; and

- 334 (vi) manner in which an eligible entity may appeal a division determination.
- 335 (6) (a) The division shall send a financial statement to each eligible entity participating  
336 in a cooperative agreement that details the eligible entity's participation commitment  
337 for the coming fiscal year, including the prevention, preparedness, and mitigation  
338 actions agreed to under Subsection (4)(c).
- 339 (b) Each eligible entity participating in a cooperative agreement shall:
- 340 (i) have the chief executive of the eligible entity sign the financial statement, or the  
341 legislative body of the eligible entity approve the financial statement by  
342 resolution, confirming the eligible entity's participation for the upcoming year; and  
343 (ii) return the financial statement to the division, on or before a date set by the  
344 division.
- 345 (c) A financial statement shall be effective for one calendar year, beginning on the date  
346 set by the division, as described in Subsection (6)(b).
- 347 (7) (a) An eligible entity may revoke a cooperative agreement before the end of the  
348 cooperative agreement's term by:
- 349 (i) informing the division, in writing, of the eligible entity's intention to revoke the  
350 cooperative agreement; or  
351 (ii) failing to sign and return its annual financial statement, as described in  
352 Subsection (6)(b), unless the director grants an extension.
- 353 (b) An eligible entity may not revoke a cooperative agreement before the end of the term  
354 of a signed annual financial statement, as described in Subsection (6)(c).
- 355 (8) (a) The division shall develop and maintain a wildfire risk assessment mapping tool  
356 that is online and publicly accessible.
- 357 (b) (i) The division shall analyze adding an additional high-risk category within the  
358 wildfire risk assessment mapping tool described in Subsection (8)(a):
- 359 (A) using a scientific assessment; and  
360 (B) that is focused on the risk to dwellings within the wildland-urban interface  
361 area.
- 362 (ii) The division shall report the results of the division's analysis under this  
363 Subsection (8)(b) to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim  
364 Committee by no later than the 2024 November interim meeting of that committee.
- 365 (c) With regard to the categories used within the wildfire risk assessment mapping tool  
366 described in Subsection (8)(a), the division may adjust the assessment for  
367 participation commitments if the adjustment is based on the Consumer Price Index

368 for All Urban Consumers as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the  
 369 United States Department of Labor, in accordance with a formula established by the  
 370 division by rule made in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative  
 371 Rulemaking Act.

372 [~~(9) By no later than the 2021 November interim meeting of the Natural Resources,~~  
 373 ~~Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee, the division shall report on the~~  
 374 ~~eligible entities' adherence to and implementation of their participation commitment~~  
 375 ~~under this chapter.]~~

376 Section 5. Section **65A-8-203.2** is amended to read:

377 **65A-8-203.2 . Billing a county or municipality not covered by a cooperative**  
 378 **agreement -- Calculating cost of wildfire suppression.**

379 (1) The division shall bill a county that is not covered by a cooperative agreement with the  
 380 division, as described in Section 65A-8-203, for the cost of wildfire suppression within  
 381 the jurisdiction of that county accrued by the state.

382 (2) The division shall bill a municipality that is not covered by a cooperative agreement  
 383 with the division, as described in Section 65A-8-203, for the cost of wildfire suppression  
 384 within the jurisdiction of that municipality accrued by the state.

385 (3) The cost of wildfire suppression to a county or municipality that is not covered by a  
 386 cooperative agreement with the division, as described in Section 65A-8-203, shall be  
 387 calculated by determining the number of acres burned within the borders of a county or  
 388 municipality, dividing that number by the total number of nonfederal acres burned by a  
 389 wildfire, and multiplying the resulting percentage by the state's total cost of wildfire  
 390 suppression for that wildfire.

391 (4) A county or municipality that receives a bill from the division, pursuant to this section,  
 392 shall pay the bill, or make arrangements to pay the bill, within 90 days of receipt of the  
 393 bill, subject to the county or municipality's right to appeal, as described in Subsection  
 394 65A-8-203(5)(b)(vi).

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

396 **65A-8-215 . Wildland-urban interface fire prevention, preparedness, and**  
 397 **mitigation.**

398 (1) As used in this section:

399 (a) "Prevention, preparedness, and mitigation fund" means the Wildland-urban Interface  
 400 Prevention, Preparedness, and Mitigation Fund created in this section.

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

- 402 65A-8-204.
- 403 (c) "Wildland-urban interface" means the zone where structures and other human  
404 development meets, or intermingles with, undeveloped wildland.
- 405 (2) (a) There is created an expendable special revenue fund known as the  
406 "Wildland-urban Interface Prevention, Preparedness, and Mitigation Fund."
- 407 (b) The prevention, preparedness, and mitigation fund shall consist of:
- 408 (i) interest and earnings from the investment of money from the prevention,  
409 preparedness, and mitigation fund;
- 410 (ii) money received as direct payment from cooperative wildfire system participation  
411 commitments;
- 412 [~~(ii)~~] (iii) money appropriated by the Legislature; and
- 413 [~~(iii)~~] (iv) money transferred to the prevention, preparedness, and mitigation fund  
414 under Section 63J-1-314.
- 415 (c) The division shall administer the prevention, preparedness, and mitigation fund to:
- 416 (i) pay costs of prevention and preparedness efforts on wildland-urban interface  
417 within the state, as defined by the division by rule made in accordance with Title  
418 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, including costs of an  
419 eligible entity that has entered into a cooperative agreement, as described in  
420 Section 65A-8-203;
- 421 (ii) issue fire department assistance grants, which in the aggregate may not exceed  
422 10% of the money in the prevention, preparedness, and mitigation fund each fiscal  
423 year; and
- 424 (iii) in cases of catastrophic need as determined by the state forester, pay costs that  
425 could be paid from the suppression fund under Section 65A-8-204.
- 426 (d) Disbursements from the prevention, preparedness, and mitigation fund may only be  
427 made upon written order of the state forester or the state forester's authorized  
428 representative.
- 429 (3) (a) The division may by rule, made in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah  
430 Administrative Rulemaking Act, establish criteria for community wildfire  
431 preparedness plans addressing wildland-urban interface. The criteria shall require  
432 action that is:
- 433 (i) qualitative and quantitative; and
- 434 (ii) leads to reduced wildfire risk.
- 435 (b) An eligible entity, as defined in Section 65A-8-203, shall agree to implement

436 prevention, preparedness, and mitigation actions identified in a community wildfire  
 437 preparedness plan addressing wildland-urban interface that is approved by the  
 438 division.

439 **Section 7. FY 2025 Appropriation.**

440 The following sums of money are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning July 1,  
 441 2024, and ending June 30, 2025. These are additions to amounts previously  
 442 appropriated for fiscal year 2025.

443 **Subsection 7(a) Expendable Funds and Accounts**

444 The Legislature has reviewed the following expendable funds. The Legislature  
 445 authorizes the State Division of Finance to transfer amounts between funds and  
 446 accounts as indicated. Outlays and expenditures from the funds or accounts to which  
 447 the money is transferred may be made without further legislative action, in  
 448 accordance with statutory provisions relating to the funds or accounts.

449	ITEM 1	To Department of Natural Resources - Wildland Fire Suppression Fund	
450		From General Fund, One-time	(\$4,000,000)
451		Schedule of Programs:	
452		Wildland Fire Suppression Fund	(\$4,000,000)
453	ITEM 2	To Department of Natural Resources - Wildland-urban Interface Prevention,	
454		Preparedness and Mitigation Fund	
455		From General Fund, One-time	\$4,000,000
456		Schedule of Programs:	
457		Wildland-urban Interface Prevention, Preparedness and	
458		Mitigation Fund	\$4,000,000

459 The Legislature intends that the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands expends  
 460 money appropriated by this Item 2 to pay for the costs of pre-suppression mitigation  
 461 and education and post fire restoration at the discretion of the Division of Forestry,  
 462 Fire, and State Lands.

463 **Section 8. Effective date.**

464 This bill takes effect on May 1, 2024.