

First Regular Session  
Sixty-seventh General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 09-0126.02 Esther van Mourik

SENATE BILL 09-021

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SENATE SPONSORSHIP

**Kopp**, Gibbs, Penry, Schwartz

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

**Scanlan and Levy**, King, Lundberg

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Senate Committees  
Judiciary

House Committees

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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 and fire departments 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 or part-time study and who agree to serve as

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

volunteer 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.

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

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

4 **23-60-304. Plans - development and implementation -**  
5 **credentialing - fees.** (6) THE BOARD SHALL ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE  
6 ARRANGEMENT WITH THE DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY IN THE DEPARTMENT  
7 OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO DEVELOP A SYSTEM IN WHICH A QUALIFIED  
8 VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER MAY RECEIVE A TUITION VOUCHER TO ATTEND  
9 COURSES AT AN INSTITUTION IN THE STATE SYSTEM OF COMMUNITY AND  
10 TECHNICAL COLLEGES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 24-33.5-1216,  
11 C.R.S.

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

14 **24-33.5-1202. Definitions.** As used in this part 12, unless the  
15 context otherwise requires:

16 (8.5) "QUALIFIED VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER" MEANS A VOLUNTEER  
17 FIREFIGHTER AS DEFINED IN SECTION 31-30-1102 (9), C.R.S., IN ACTIVE  
18 SERVICE AND MAINTAINING THE MINIMUM AMOUNT OF TRAINING IN A FIRE  
19 DEPARTMENT OF THIRTY-SIX HOURS EACH YEAR.

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

23 **24-33.5-1215. Firefighting in wild land-urban interface areas**



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