
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair

2025 - 2026 Regular Session

SB 973 (Becker) - Wildfire County Coordinator Program

Version: April 13, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: May 14, 2026

Policy Vote: N.R. & W. 7 - 0, E.M. 9 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Ashley Ames

Bill Summary: This bill would direct the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) to implement specified wildfire risk and resilience related activities and formalizes CalFire's partnership with the California Fire Safe Council (CFSC) to administer and deliver the Wildfire County Coordinator Program (WCC Program).

***** **ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE** *****

The following information is revised to reflect amendments
adopted by the committee on May 14, 2026

Fiscal Impact:

- The Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) estimates one-time costs of \$870,000 spread over two years for two limited-term positions to develop the wildfire resilience guidance, templates, and implementation guidance as required by the bill.
- Unknown but potentially significant ongoing costs (General Fund) for CalFire to implement the provisions of this bill.
- Unknown but potentially significant ongoing cost pressures (General Fund and other funds) to continue providing funding for home hardening certification and the WCC Program after 2027.

Author Amendments: Author amendments would delete the requirement for the County Wildfire Coordinator to consult with CARB, thereby eliminating costs to CARB estimated at \$600,000.

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