

Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC)
Colorado Fire Commission (CFC)
Legislative Subcommittee Meeting
July 21, 2025, 10:00 - 11:00 am
Virtual
Meeting Summary

ATTENDANCE

Subcommittee: Sean Jewell, Bryce Boyer, Connie Johnson, Kevin Whelan, Alec Oughton, Jennah Kitchell, Bob Sullivan, Brendan Witt, Mark Novak

DFPC: Katie Lobodzinski

ACTION ITEMS

Katie Lobodzinski	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Review the <i>CFC Process and Protocols</i> document for language outlining the duties and responsibilities of the Legislative Subcommittee.
Jennah Kitchell	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Engage the CDPS legislative liaison to help clarify the legal scope and authority of the Subcommittee.
Sean Jewell and Katie Lobodzinski	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify a process for rapid communication within the Subcommittee (e.g., Microsoft Teams, group chat).Develop a system for tracking bills and CFC recommendations.Set the Subcommittee's next meeting.

DISCUSSION

- Sean reviewed the previously identified objectives of the Legislative Subcommittee:
 - Track CFC recommendations through the legislative process and notify Commission members if changes alter the original intent.
 - Educate legislators about CFC recommendations.
 - Represent group consensus as spokespeople.
 - Assist in the development of talking points.
 - Coordinate messaging with external stakeholders.
 - Serve as a rapid response team to attend legislative sessions and testify on behalf of the Commission.
- Sean emphasized the importance of consistent messaging, noting that inconsistent communication among stakeholders weakens the impact of CFC recommendations.
- Mark highlighted that members of the Legislative Subcommittee should be responsible for presenting Commission recommendations. If a Subcommittee member is part of a stakeholder group that opposes a particular concept, another member can step in to present the recommendation.

- Kevin stressed the importance of engaging the CDPS legislative liaison. He noted that the Subcommittee was originally empowered to make decisions on behalf of the Commission and suggested revisiting this topic at the next full Commission meeting. Clarifying the Subcommittee's boundaries and scope will be important going forward.
- Bob drew a distinction between the legislative process and the development of codes and standards. Increasingly, individuals are bypassing the code development process by bringing concepts directly to legislators (e.g., the single staircase issue, residential sprinklers).
- Kevin added that in the early days of the Commission, external groups would ask the Commission to advocate for specific legislative issues. The Commission ultimately decided to focus only on matters addressed through formal CFC recommendations.
- Alec asked whether the process described by Kevin could work in reverse—whether CFC members could use a recommendation to mobilize stakeholder groups in support of legislation.
 - Sean said yes, he views this kind of engagement as part of the Commission's representative role.
- Bryce agreed and characterized this dynamic as a two-way flow of information. He sees the Subcommittee's role as both monitoring recommendations and serving as a rapid response team ready to provide answers and testimony to legislators and stakeholder groups as needed.
- Alec noted that many legislative ideas are generated during the interim period between sessions. He suggested that, if CFC recommendations are endorsed early enough, stakeholder groups with lobbyists could align behind them and begin building support well before the session begins.