

SENATE BILL NO. 47

INTRODUCED BY J. POMNICHOWSKI

BY REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT INCREASING ASSESSMENTS FOR FIRE PROTECTION ON OWNERS OF CLASSIFIED FOREST LAND; AMENDING SECTION 76-13-201, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 76-13-201, MCA, is amended to read:

"76-13-201. Costs for protection from fire. (1) An owner of land classified as forest land that is within a wildland fire protection district or that is otherwise under contract for fire protection by a recognized agency is subject to the fees for fire protection provided in this section.

(2) The department shall provide fire protection to the land described in subsection (1) at a cost to the landowner of not more than ~~\$45~~ \$50 for each landowner in the protection district and of not more than an additional ~~25~~ 30 cents per acre per year for each acre in excess of 20 acres owned by each landowner in each protection district, as necessary to yield the amount of money provided for in 76-13-207. Assessment, payment, and collection of the fire protection costs must be in accordance with 76-13-207.

(3) Other charges may not be assessed to a participating landowner except in cases of proved negligence on the part of the landowner or the landowner's agent or in the event of a violation of 50-63-103."

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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