

Bill Summary
1st Session of the 59th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 517
Version:	INT
Request No.:	1604
Author:	Sen. Newhouse
Date:	01/18/2023

Bill Analysis

SB 517 creates the Wildland Fire Protection Act. The measure authorizes any electric utility to prepare an electrical wildland fire protection plan as deemed necessary. Such a plan shall include a description of the factors outlined in the measure. The utility shall maintain a copy of the plan and make it available for public inspection upon request as well as consider input from the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry, the State Fire Marshal, and any other appropriate federal, state, or local entity that requests to provide input to the utility. Utilities shall also be authorized to recover expenses incurred in implementing the plan using rates. The measure provides that any person who recklessly or intentionally causes or spreads a wildland fire shall be liable for the injuries arising from the ownership of property which result from that wildland fire, regardless of the jurisdiction the fire started in. Utilities that have adopted a plan shall not be considered liable.

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