

SENATE BILL NO. 340

INTRODUCED BY C. VINCENT

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CLARIFYING COUNTY ENFORCEMENT RELATED TO A PERSON, ENTITY, OR REPRESENTATIVE OF A PERSON OR ENTITY THAT HAS ENTERED INTO A FIRE HAZARD REDUCTION AGREEMENT; AMENDING SECTION 7-33-2205, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

Section 1. Section 7-33-2205, MCA, is amended to read:

"7-33-2205. Establishment of fire season -- permit requirements -- reimbursement of costs. (1)

(a) The county governing body may in its discretion establish fire seasons annually, during which a person may not ignite or set a fire, including a slash-burning fire, land-clearing fire, debris-burning fire, or open fire within the county protection area on any residential or commercial property, forest, range, or croplands subject to the provisions of this part without having obtained an official written permit or permission to ignite or set a fire from the recognized protection agency for that protection area.

(b) If a person, entity, or representative of a person or entity has entered into a fire hazard reduction agreement pursuant to Title 76, chapter 13, part 4, and is complying with that agreement and the person, entity, or representative of that person or entity has obtained a written permit or permission to ignite or set a fire from the recognized protection agency for that protection area, then that person, entity, or representative of that person or entity is not in violation of this section.

(2) A permit or permission is not needed for recreational fires measuring less than 48 inches in diameter that are surrounded by a nonflammable structure and for which a suitable source of extinguishing the fire is available.

(3) A person who purposely ignites a fire in violation of this section shall reimburse the county governing body or recognized protection agency for costs incurred for any fire suppression activities resulting from the illegal fire, as provided in 50-63-103."

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

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