

HOUSE BILL NO. 329

INTRODUCED BY J. WELBORN

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN INTERAGENCY WEED ABATEMENT PILOT PROJECT TO FUND WEED CONTROL ON STATE LAND IN COORDINATION WITH NEARBY LANDOWNERS; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Interagency weed abatement pilot project -- findings -- establishment.

- (1) The legislature finds that:
 - (a) invasive weeds are a significant threat to Montana's environment, reducing forage for stock and wildlife, degrading fisheries through erosion and sediment buildup, and reducing property values;
 - (b) about 7.6 million acres of land under all types of ownership are infested with designated noxious weeds; and
 - (c) any successful battle against invasive weeds must be waged in a coordinated fashion regardless of land ownership.
- (2) The department of natural resources and conservation shall identify a parcel or parcels of state land in need of weed control that are adjacent to or near other parcels with varied ownership also in need of weed control. Other owners may include the United States government, other state agencies, a local government, a nonprofit organization, or private owners.
- (3) The department may use the funds appropriated in [section 2] to fund an interagency pilot project to combat the spread of invasive weeds on state land in coordination with other landowners.
- (4) In designing the project, the department shall consult with the weed coordinator and the conservation district in the county or counties included in the project.
- (5) The department shall report the outcome of the project to the environmental quality council by September 15, 2016.

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Appropriation. There is a one-time appropriation of \$15,000 to the department of natural resources and conservation to fund the interagency weed abatement pilot project



1 established in [section 1].

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3 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2015.

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