AN ACT REGULATING UNATTENDED FIRES CONDUCTED UNDER FIRE HAZARD REDUCTION

AGREEMENTS; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

Section 1. Fire hazard reduction agreement -- slash burning. (1) Slash burning as part of hazard

reduction agreements must be conducted under rules adopted pursuant to this part and burning notification

requirements adopted pursuant to 7-33-2205.

(2)   Immediate or continuous presence is not required for slash burning conducted under this

section provided that:

(a)   significant precipitation, the presence of persistent snow cover, fuel moisture conditions, or a

combination of those factors sufficiently inhibit the chance of fire spreading under current and foreseeable

weather conditions;

(b)   there is an absence of high wind events or warnings for the slash burning period that would

cause the fire or embers to spread beyond the intended location;

(c)   the slash burn location is sufficiently monitored, patrolled, or both until the risk of fire spread

subsides. This includes at least one site visit to ensure containment.

(3)   Nothing in this section absolves the holder of a fire hazard reduction agreement from operating

with reasonable care and caution or the provisions of 50-63-102 and 50-63-103.

Section 2. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title

76, chapter 13, part 4, and the provisions of Title 76, chapter 13, part 4, apply to [section 1].

Section 3. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

- END -

Authorized Print Version – SB 448

ENROLLED BILL

I hereby certify that the within bill,

SB 448, originated in the Senate.

_____

Secretary of the Senate

_____

President of the Senate

Signed this _____day

of_____, 2023.

_____

Speaker of the House

Signed this _____day

of_____, 2023.

SENATE BILL NO. 448

INTRODUCED BY M. CUFFE

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