

## HOUSE BILL NO. 287

INTRODUCED BY LINDEEN, BERGREN, BOHLINGER, CALLAHAN, HANSEN, B. RYAN

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING A PERSON WHO PURPOSELY IGNITES A FIRE WITHOUT A PERMIT TO REIMBURSE THE ENTITY RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY FIRE SUPPRESSION ACTIVITIES RESULTING FROM THE ILLEGAL FIRE; AND AMENDING SECTION 7-33-2205, MCA."

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)**

The county governing body may in its discretion establish fire seasons annually, during which ~~no~~ a person may not ignite or set any forest fire, slash-burning fire, land-clearing fire, debris-burning fire, or open fire within the county protection area on any forest, range, or croplands subject to the provisions of this part without having obtained an official written permit to ignite or set ~~such~~ a fire from the recognized protection agency for that protection area.

(2) A person who PURPOSELY ignites a fire in violation of this section shall reimburse the county governing body, rural fire district, fire service area, or fire company OR RECOGNIZED PROTECTION AGENCY for costs incurred for any fire suppression activities resulting from the illegal fire."

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