

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 59

2 INTRODUCED BY R. LYNCH

3 BY REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

4
5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING THE TITLE AND DUTIES OF THE DROUGHT ADVISORY
6 COMMITTEE TO INCLUDE ANALYSIS OF WATER SUPPLIES AND FLOODING; AMENDING SECTION
7 2-15-3308, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

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11 **Section 1.** Section 2-15-3308, MCA, is amended to read:

12 **"2-15-3308. Drought and water supply advisory committee.** (1) There is a drought and water supply
13 advisory committee in the department of natural resources and conservation.

14 (2) The drought and water supply advisory committee is chaired by a representative of the governor and
15 consists of representatives of the departments of natural resources and conservation; agriculture; commerce; fish,
16 wildlife, and parks; military affairs; environmental quality; and livestock. The governor's representative must be
17 appointed by the governor, and the representative of each department must be appointed by the head of that
18 department. Additional, nonvoting members who represent ~~drought-affected~~ federal and local government
19 agencies and public and private interests affected by drought or flooding may also be appointed by the governor.

20 (3) The drought and water supply advisory committee shall:

21 (a) with the approval of the governor, develop and implement a state ~~drought~~ plan that considers drought
22 and flooding;

23 (b) review and report drought and water supply monitoring information to the public;

24 (c) coordinate timely drought and flooding impact assessments;

25 (d) identify areas of the state with a high probability of drought or flooding and target reporting and
26 assistance efforts to those areas;

27 (e) upon request, assist in organizing local ~~drought~~ advisory committees for the areas identified under
28 subsection (3)(d);

29 (f) request state agency staff to provide technical assistance to local ~~drought~~ advisory committees; and

30 (g) promote ideas and activities for groups and individuals to consider that may reduce drought or

1 flooding vulnerability.

2 (4) The drought and water supply advisory committee shall meet, at a minimum, on or around October
3 15 and March 15 of each year to assess moisture conditions and forecasts and, as appropriate, begin
4 preparations for drought or flood mitigation.

5 (5) By April 15 of each year, the drought and water supply advisory committee shall submit a report to
6 the governor describing the potential for drought or flooding in the coming year. If the potential for drought or
7 flooding merits additional activity by the drought and water supply advisory committee, the report must also
8 describe:

9 (a) activities to be taken by the drought and water supply advisory committee for informing the public
10 about the potential ~~for~~ impacts of drought or flooding;

11 (b) a schedule for completing activities;

12 (c) geographic areas for which the creation of local drought and water supply advisory committees will
13 be suggested to local governments and citizens; and

14 (d) requests for the use of any available state resources that may be necessary to prevent or minimize
15 drought or flood impacts.

16 (6) Nothing in this section is intended to remove or interfere with the duties and responsibilities of the
17 governor or the division of disaster and emergency services for disaster coordination and emergency response,
18 as provided in Title 10, chapter 3, part 1. The duties and responsibilities of the drought and water supply advisory
19 committee supplement and are consistent with those of the division of disaster and emergency services for
20 drought or flood planning, preparation, coordination, and mitigation."

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

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