

SB0122S01 compared with SB0122

~~text~~ shows text that was in SB0122 but was deleted in SB0122S01.

text shows text that was not in SB0122 but was inserted into SB0122S01.

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Senator Evan J. Vickers proposes the following substitute bill:

WILDLAND FIRE POLICY UPDATES

2016 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Evan J. Vickers

House Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill modifies procedures surrounding the management of wildland fire.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ requires a municipality to abate uncontrolled wildfire on private or municipality-owned land within its boundaries, under certain circumstances;
- ▶ authorizes a city, town, county, or certain special districts to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands;
- ▶ states that a city, town, county, or special district that enters into a cooperative agreement may be eligible to have the costs of catastrophic wildland fire suppression paid by the state;

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- ▶ states that a city, town, county, or special district that does not enter into a cooperative agreement shall be responsible for wildland fire suppression costs within its jurisdiction;
- ▶ describes the requirements to enter into a cooperative agreement; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides a special effective date.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

11-7-1, as last amended by Laws of Utah 1986, Chapter 175

15A-5-203, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 158

65A-1-1, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2013, Chapter 413

65A-3-3, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2013, Chapter 237

65A-8-101, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 20

65A-8-103, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 33

65A-8-201, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2007, Chapter 136

65A-8-202, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2007, Chapter 136

65A-8-203, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2007, Chapter 136

65A-8-204, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2007, Chapter 136

65A-8-206, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2007, Chapter 136

65A-8-207, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 382

65A-8-209, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2007, Chapter 136

65A-8-210, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2007, Chapter 136

65A-8-211, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2007, Chapter 136

ENACTS:

65A-8-202.5, Utah Code Annotated 1953

65A-8-203.1, Utah Code Annotated 1953

65A-8-203.2, Utah Code Annotated 1953

65A-8-209.1, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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REPEALS:

65A-8-103.5, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 33

65A-8-205, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2011, Chapter 342

65A-8-208, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2007, Chapter 136

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **11-7-1** is amended to read:

11-7-1. Cooperation with other governmental units -- Burning permits --

Contracts.

(1) The governing body of every incorporated municipality and the board of commissioners or county council of every county shall:

(a) provide adequate fire protection within their own territorial limits; and [~~shall~~]

(b) cooperate with all contiguous counties, municipal corporations, private corporations, fire districts, state agencies, or federal governmental agencies to maintain adequate fire protection within their territorial limits.

(2) Every incorporated municipality and every county may:

(a) require that persons obtain a burning permit before starting a fire on any forest, wildland urban interface, brush, range, grass, grain, stubble, or hay land, except that a municipality or county may not require a burning permit for the burning of fence lines on cultivated lands, canals, or irrigation ditches, provided that the individual notifies the nearest fire department of the approximate time that the burning will occur;

(b) maintain and support a fire-fighting force or fire department for its own protection;

(c) contract to furnish fire protection to any proximate county, municipal corporation, private corporation, fire district, state agency, or federal agency;

(d) contract to receive fire protection from any contiguous county, municipal corporation, private corporation, fire district, state agency, or federal governmental agency;

(e) contract to jointly provide fire protection with any contiguous county, municipal corporation, private corporation, fire district, state agency, or federal governmental agency; or

(f) contract to contribute toward the support of a fire-fighting force, or fire department in any contiguous county, municipal corporation, private corporation, fire district, state agency, or federal governmental agency in return for fire protection.

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Section 2. Section **15A-5-203** is amended to read:

15A-5-203. Amendments and additions to IFC related to fire safety, building, and site requirements.

(1) For IFC, Chapter 5, Fire Service Features:

(a) In IFC, Chapter 5, a new Section 501.5, Access grade and fire flow, is added as follows: "An authority having jurisdiction over a structure built in accordance with the requirements of the International Residential Code as adopted in the State Construction Code, may require an automatic fire sprinkler system for the structure only by ordinance and only if any of the following conditions exist:

(i) the structure:

(A) is located in an urban-wildland interface area as provided in the Utah Wildland Urban Interface Code adopted as a construction code under the State Construction Code; and

(B) does not meet the requirements described in Utah Code, Subsection [~~65A-8-203(3)(a)~~] 65A-8-203(4)(a) and Utah Administrative Code, R652-122-200, Minimum Standards for Wildland Fire Ordinance;

(ii) the structure is in an area where a public water distribution system with fire hydrants does not exist as required in Utah Administrative Code, R309-550-5, Water Main Design;

(iii) the only fire apparatus access road has a grade greater than 10% for more than 500 continual feet; or

(iv) (A) the water supply to the structure does not provide at least 500 gallons fire flow per minute for a minimum of 30 minutes, if the total square foot living space of the structure is equal to or less than 5,000 square feet;

(B) the water supply to the structure does not provide at least 750 gallons per minute fire flow for a minimum of 30 minutes, if the total square foot living space exceeds 5,000 square feet, but is equal to or less than 10,000 square feet; or

(C) the water supply to the structure does not provide at least 1,000 gallons per minute fire flow for a minimum of 30 minutes, if the total square foot living space exceeds 10,000 square feet."

(b) In IFC, Chapter 5, Section 506.1, Where Required, is deleted and rewritten as follows: "Where access to or within a structure or an area is restricted because of secured

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openings or where immediate access is necessary for life-saving or fire-fighting purposes, the fire code official, after consultation with the building owner, may require a key box to be installed in an approved location. The key box shall contain keys to gain necessary access as required by the fire code official. For each fire jurisdiction that has at least one building with a required key box, the fire jurisdiction shall adopt an ordinance, resolution, or other operating rule or policy that creates a process to ensure that each key to each key box is properly accounted for and secure."

(c) In IFC, Chapter 5, a new Section 507.1.1, Isolated one- and two-family dwellings, is added as follows: "Fire flow may be reduced for an isolated one- and two-family dwelling when the authority having jurisdiction over the dwelling determines that the development of a full fire-flow requirement is impractical."

(d) In IFC, Chapter 5, a new Section 507.1.2, Pre-existing subdivision lots, is added as follows "Total water supply requirements shall not exceed the fire flows described in Section 501.5(iv) for the largest one- or two-family dwelling, protected by an automatic fire sprinkler system, on a subdivision lot platted before December 31, 1980, unless the municipality or county in which the lot is located provides the required fire flow capacity."

(e) In IFC, Chapter 5, Section 510.1, Emergency Responder Radio Coverage in New Buildings, is amended by adding: "When required by the fire code official," at the beginning of the first paragraph.

(2) For IFC, Chapter 6, Building Services and Systems:

(a) In IFC, Chapter 6, Section 605.11.3.3.1, Access, is deleted and rewritten as follows: "There shall be a minimum three foot wide (914 mm) clear perimeter around the edges of the roof."

(b) In IFC, Chapter 6, Section 605.11.3.3.2, Pathways, is deleted and rewritten as follows: "The solar installation shall be designed to provide designated pathways. The pathways shall meet the following requirements:

1. The pathway shall be over areas capable of supporting the live load of fire fighters accessing the roof.

2. The centerline axis pathways shall be provided in both axes of the roof. Centerline axis pathways shall run where the roof structure is capable of supporting the live load of fire fighters accessing the roof.

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3. Smoke and heat vents required by Section 910.2.1 or 910.2.2 of this Code, shall be provided with a clear pathway width of not less than three feet (914 mm) to vents.

4. Access to roof area required by Section 504.2 or 1009.16 of this Code, shall be provided with a clear pathway width of not less than three feet (914 mm) around access opening and at least three feet (914 mm) clear pathway to parapet or roof edge."

(c) In IFC, Chapter 6, Section 605.11.3.2, Residential Systems for One and Two Family Dwellings, is deleted and rewritten as follows: "Access to residential systems for one and two family dwellings shall be provided in accordance with Sections 605.11.3.2.1 through 605.11.3.2.4.

Exception: Reduction in pathways and clear access width shall be permitted where shown that a rational approach has been used and that such reductions are warranted when approved by the Fire Code Official."

(d) In IFC, Chapter 6, Section 605.11.3.3.3, Smoke Ventilation, is deleted and rewritten as follows: "The solar installation shall be designed to meet the following requirements:

1. Arrays shall be no greater than 150 feet (45.720 mm) by 150 feet (45.720 mm) in distance in either axis in order to create opportunities for fire department smoke ventilation operations.

2. Smoke ventilation options between array sections shall be one of the following:

2.1. A pathway six feet (1829 mm) or greater in width.

2.2. A three foot (914 mm) or greater in width pathway and bordering roof skylights or smoke and heat vents when required by Section 910.2.1 or Section 910.2.2 of this Code.

2.3. Smoke and heat vents designed for remote operation using devices that can be connected to the vent by mechanical, electrical, or any other suitable means, shall be protected as necessary to remain operable for the design period. Controls for remote operation shall be located in a control panel, clearly identified and located in an approved location."

(e) In IFC, Chapter 6, Section 607.4, Elevator Key Location, is deleted and rewritten as follows: "Firefighter service keys shall be kept in a "Supra-Stor-a-key" elevator key box or similar box with corresponding key system that is adjacent to the elevator for immediate use by the fire department. The key box shall contain one key for each elevator, one key for lobby control, and any other keys necessary for emergency service. The elevator key box shall be

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accessed using a 6049 numbered key."

(f) In IFC, Chapter 6, Section 609.1, General, is amended as follows: On line three, after the word "Code", add the words "and NFPA 96".

(3) For IFC, Chapter 7, Fire-Resistance-Rated Construction, IFC, Chapter 7, Section 703.2, is amended to add the following: "Exception: In Group E Occupancies, where the corridor serves an occupant load greater than 30 and the building does not have an automatic fire sprinkler system installed, the door closers may be of the friction hold-open type on classrooms' doors with a rating of 20 minutes or less only."

Section 3. Section **65A-1-1** is amended to read:

65A-1-1. Definitions.

As used in this title:

(1) "Division" means the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands.

(2) "Initial attack" means action taken by the first resource to arrive at a wildland fire incident, including evaluating the wildland fire, patrolling, monitoring, holding action, or aggressive suppression action.

~~(2)~~ (3) "Multiple use" means the management of various surface and subsurface resources in a manner that will best meet the present and future needs of the people of this state.

~~(3)~~ (4) "Public trust assets" means those lands and resources, including sovereign lands, administered by the division.

~~(4)~~ (5) "Sovereign lands" means those lands lying below the ordinary high water mark of navigable bodies of water at the date of statehood and owned by the state by virtue of its sovereignty.

~~(5)~~ (6) "State lands" means all lands administered by the division.

~~(6)~~ (7) "Sustained yield" means the achievement and maintenance of high level annual or periodic output of the various renewable resources of land without impairment of the productivity of the land.

~~(7)~~ (8) "Wildland" means an area where:

(a) development is essentially non-existent, except for roads, railroads, powerlines, or similar transportation facilities; and

(b) structures, if any, are widely scattered.

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~~[(8)]~~ (9) "Wildland fire" means a fire that consumes:

- (a) wildland; or
- (b) wildland-urban interface, as defined in Section 65A-8a-102.

Section 4. Section **65A-3-3** is amended to read:

65A-3-3. Enforcement of laws -- City, county, or district attorney to prosecute.

(1) It is the duty of the division, county sheriffs, their deputies, peace officers, and other law enforcement officers within the law enforcement jurisdiction to enforce the provisions of this chapter and to investigate and gather evidence that may indicate a violation under this chapter.

(2) The city attorney, county attorney, or district attorney, as appropriate under Sections 10-3-928, 17-18a-202, and 17-18a-203, shall:

- (a) prosecute any criminal violations of this chapter; and
- (b) initiate a civil action to recover suppression costs incurred by the city, county, fire district, or state for suppression of fire on private land.

Section 5. Section **65A-8-101** is amended to read:

65A-8-101. Division responsibilities for fire management and the conservation of forest, watershed, and other lands -- Reciprocal agreements for fire protection.

(1) The division, in consultation with relevant local authorities, shall determine and execute the best method for protecting private and public property by:

(a) except as provided by Subsection (1)~~[(e)]~~(d), preventing, preparing for, or mitigating the origin and spread of fire on nonfederal forest, range, ~~[or] watershed, or wildland urban interface~~ land in ~~[an unincorporated area of]~~ the state;

~~[(b) protecting a nonfederal forest or watershed area using conservation principles;]~~

~~[(e)]~~ (b) encouraging a ~~[private]~~ landowner to ~~[preserve]~~ conserve, protect, and manage forest or other land throughout the state;

~~[(d)]~~ (c) taking action the division considers appropriate to ~~[control]~~ manage wildland fire and protect life and property on ~~[the]~~ nonfederal forest, range, ~~[or] watershed, or wildland urban interface~~ land within ~~[an unincorporated area of]~~ the state; and

~~[(e)]~~ (d) implementing a limited fire suppression strategy, including allowing a fire to burn with limited or modified suppression, if the division determines that the strategy is appropriate for a specific area or circumstance.

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(2) The division may:

(a) enter into an agreement with a public or private agency or individual:

(i) for the purpose of protecting, managing, or rehabilitating land owned or managed by the agency or individual; and

(ii) establishing a predetermined fire suppression plan, including a limited fire suppression strategy, for a specific fire management area; and

(b) enter into a reciprocal agreement with a fire protection organization, including a federal agency, to provide fire protection for land, and an improvement on land, for which the organization normally provides fire protection.

Section 6. Section **65A-8-103** is amended to read:

65A-8-103. Forestry and fire control funds.

(1) The division shall use money available to it to meet the costs of:

(a) [~~controlling~~] managing forest, range, [~~and~~] watershed, and wildland urban interface fires;

(b) [~~controlling~~] managing insect and disease epidemics;

(c) rehabilitating or reforesting nonfederal forest, range, and watershed lands;

(d) promoting wildfire preparedness, wildfire mitigation, and wildfire prevention; [~~and~~]

(e) restoring and maintaining landscapes ensuring landscapes across the state are resilient to wildfire-related disturbances, in accordance with fire management objectives;

(f) creating fire-adapted communities, ensuring that human populations and infrastructure can withstand a wildfire without loss of life or property;

(g) improving wildfire response, ensuring that all political subdivisions can participate in making and implementing safe, effective, and efficient risk-based wildfire management decisions;

(h) reducing risks to wildlife such as the greater sage grouse; and

[~~(e)~~] (i) carrying on the purposes of this chapter.

(2) All money available to the division to meet the costs of Subsections (1)(a) through [~~(e)~~] (i) is nonlapsing and available to the division until expended.

(3) (a) The collection and disbursement of all money made available to the division shall be in accordance with the rules of the Division of Finance.

(b) Money collected by the division from fees, rentals, sales, contributions,

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reimbursements, and other such sources shall be deposited in the appropriate account.

Section 7. Section **65A-8-201** is amended to read:

65A-8-201. Uncontrolled fire is a public nuisance.

Any fire on forest, range, ~~[or] watershed, or wildland urban interface~~ land in the state burning uncontrolled and without proper and adequate action being taken to ~~[control or prevent its spread]~~ manage it is a public nuisance.

Section 8. Section **65A-8-202** is amended to read:

65A-8-202. Fire control -- County responsibilities.

(1) ~~[Counties]~~ A county shall abate the public nuisance caused by ~~[uncontrolled fire]~~ wildfire on unincorporated, privately owned or county owned forest, range, [and] watershed, and wildland urban interface lands within its boundaries.

(2) ~~[Counties, or other political subdivisions of the state as determined to be appropriate by the state forester,]~~ A county may participate in the wildland fire protection system of the division and become eligible for assistance from the state by agreement under the provisions of this chapter.

(3) A county shall:

(a) reduce the risk of wildfire ~~from~~to unincorporated, privately owned or county owned forest, range, watershed, and wildland urban interface land within its boundaries, with private landowner permission, through appropriate wildfire prevention, preparedness, and mitigation actions; and

(b) ensure effective wildfire initial attack on unincorporated privately owned or county owned forest, range, watershed, and wildland urban interface land within its boundaries.

(4) A county may contract or delegate the responsibilities described in Subsections (1) and (3) to a fire service provider or an eligible entity, as defined in Section 65A-8-203.

~~[(3)]~~ (5) The state forester shall make certain that appropriate action is taken to control wildland fires on unincorporated nonfederal forest, range, ~~[and]~~ watershed, and wildland urban interface lands.

~~[(4) The actual costs of suppression action taken by the division on privately owned lands shall be a charge against the county in which the lands lie, unless otherwise provided by cooperative agreement.]~~

Section 9. Section **65A-8-202.5** is enacted to read:

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65A-8-202.5. City and town responsibilities.

(1) As used in this section, "municipality" means a city or town.

(2) A municipality shall abate the public nuisance caused by wildfire on forest, range, watershed, and wildland urban interface land within the boundaries of the municipality if the land is:

(a) privately owned; or

(b) owned by the municipality.

(3) A municipality may participate in the wildland fire protection system of the division and become eligible for assistance from the state by agreement under the provisions of this chapter.

(4) A municipality shall:

(a) reduce the risk of wildfire ~~from~~ to incorporated, privately owned and municipality owned forest, range, watershed, and wildland urban interface land ~~{ within its boundaries }~~, with private landowner permission, through appropriate wildfire prevention, preparedness, and mitigation actions; and

(b) ensure effective wildfire initial attack on forest, range, watershed, and wildland urban interface land within its ~~{ boundaries that is:~~

~~(i) privately owned; or~~

~~(ii) owned by the municipality }~~ fire protection boundary.

(5) A municipality may contract or delegate the responsibilities described in Subsections (2) and (4) to a fire service provider or an eligible entity, as defined in Section 65A-8-203.

(6) The state forester shall make certain that appropriate action is taken to control wildland fires on incorporated, nonfederal forest, range, watershed, and wildland urban interface lands.

Section 10. Section **65A-8-203** is amended to read:

65A-8-203. Cooperative fire protection agreements with counties, cities, towns, or special service districts.

(1) As used in this section, "eligible entity" means:

(a) a county, a municipality, or a special service district, local district, or service area with:

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~~(a)(i)~~ wildland fire suppression responsibility; and

~~(b)(ii)~~ wildland fire suppression cost responsibility and taxing authority for a specific geographic jurisdiction; or

(b) upon approval by the director, a political subdivision established by a county, municipality, special service district, local district, or service area that is responsible for:

(i) providing wildland fire suppression services; and

(ii) paying for the cost of wildland fire suppression services.

~~(1)~~ (2) (a) The ~~county legislative~~ governing body of any ~~county~~ eligible entity may enter into a cooperative agreement with the division to receive financial and ~~supervisory~~ wildfire management cooperation and assistance from the division, as described in this Title 65A, Chapter 8, Part 2, Fire Control.

(b) A cooperative agreement shall last for a term of no more than five years and be renewable if the eligible entity continues to meet the requirements of this chapter.

~~(2) A county~~ (3) (a) An eligible entity may not receive financial cooperation or financial assistance under Subsection ~~(1)~~ (2)(a) until a cooperative agreement is executed by the ~~county legislative body~~ eligible entity and the division.

(b) The state ~~may~~ shall assume an eligible entity's cost of suppressing catastrophic wildfire as defined in the cooperative agreement if the eligible entity has entered into, and is in full compliance with, a cooperative agreement with the division, as described in this section.

(c) ~~An eligible entity~~ A county or municipality that ~~does~~ is not ~~enter into~~ covered by a cooperative agreement with the division, as described in this section, shall be responsible for wildland fire costs within its jurisdiction, as described in Section 65A-8-203.2.

~~(3)~~ (4) In order to ~~be eligible to~~ enter into a cooperative agreement with the division, the ~~county~~ eligible entity shall:

(a) if the eligible entity is a county, adopt and enforce a wildland fire ordinance based upon minimum standards established by the division or ~~Utah~~ Uniform Building Code ~~Council~~ Commission;

(b) require that the ~~county~~ fire department or equivalent ~~private~~ fire service provider under contract with, or delegated by, the ~~county~~ eligible entity meet minimum standards for wildland fire training, certification, and ~~wildland fire~~ suppression equipment based upon nationally accepted standards as specified by the division; ~~and~~

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(c) invest in prevention, preparedness, and mitigation efforts, as agreed to with the division, that will reduce the eligible entity's risk of catastrophic wildfire;

~~[(c)]~~ (d) file with the division [a budget for fire suppression] an annual accounting of wildfire prevention, preparedness, mitigation actions, and associated costs[-];

(e) return the financial statement described in Subsection (6), signed by the chief executive of the eligible entity, to the division on or before the date set by the division; and

(f) if the eligible entity is a county, have a designated fire warden, [as described in Section 65A-8-209.1](#).

~~[(4) A county that chooses not to enter into a cooperative agreement with the division may not be eligible to receive financial assistance from the division.]~~

~~(5) (a) The state forester may execute [the agreements and may divide the state into fire protection districts. (6) These districts shall provide efficient and economical fire protection within the area defined. (7) The districts may comprise one or more counties, or portions of counties to be specified in the cooperative agreements.]~~ a cooperative agreement with the eligible entity.

(b) The division shall make rules, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, governing the:

(i) ~~{form of the }~~ cooperative agreements described in this section;

(ii) manner in which an eligible entity shall provide proof of compliance with Subsection (3);

(iii) manner by which the division may revoke a cooperative agreement if an eligible entity ceases to meet the requirements described in this section;

(iv) accounting system for determining suppression costs; and

(v) manner in which the division shall determine the eligible entity's participation commitment.

(6) (a) The division shall send a financial statement to each eligible entity participating in a cooperative agreement that details the eligible entity's participation commitment for the coming fiscal year, including the prevention, preparedness, and mitigation actions agreed to under Subsection (4)(c).

(b) Each eligible entity participating in a cooperative agreement shall:

(i) have the chief executive of the eligible entity sign the financial statement, [or the](#)

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legislative body of the eligible entity approve the financial statement by resolution, confirming the eligible entity's participation for the upcoming year; and

(ii) return the financial statement to the division, on or before a date set by the division.

(c) A financial statement shall be effective for one calendar year, beginning on the date set by the division, as described in Subsection (6)(b).

~~[(8) Under the terms of the cooperative agreements, the state forester shall file annual budgets for operation of the cooperative districts with each participating county.]~~

~~[(9) If the county approves a budget mutually acceptable to the county and the state forester, and budgets an amount for actual fire suppression costs determined to be normal by the state forester, the agreement shall commit the state to pay 1/2 of the actual suppression costs that exceed the stated normal costs:]~~

(7) (a) An eligible entity may revoke a cooperative agreement before the end of the cooperative agreement's term by:

(i) informing the division, in writing, of the eligible entity's intention to revoke the cooperative agreement; or

(ii) failing to sign and return its annual financial statement, as described in Subsection (6)(b), unless the director grants an extension.

(b) An eligible entity may not revoke a cooperative agreement before the end of the term of a signed annual financial statement, as described in Subsection (6)(c).

Section 11. Section **65A-8-203.1** is enacted to read:

65A-8-203.1. Delegation of fire management authority.

(1) As used in this section, "delegation of fire management authority" means the acceptance by the division of responsibility for:

(a) managing a wildfire; and

(b) the cost of fire suppression, as described in Section 65A-8-203.

(2) The division shall make rules, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, governing the process for delegation of fire management authority.

(3) Upon delegation of fire management authority, the division and its named designee becomes the primary incident commander.

Section 12. Section **65A-8-203.2** is enacted to read:

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65A-8-203.2. Billing ~~{eligible entities without}~~ a county or municipality not covered by a cooperative agreement -- Calculating cost of wildfire suppression.

~~{~~ (1) As used in this section, "eligible entity" means the same as that term is defined in Section 65A-8-203.

~~{~~ (~~{2}~~1) The division shall bill ~~{an eligible entity}~~ a county or municipality that ~~{does}~~is not ~~{enter into}~~covered by a cooperative agreement with the division, as described in Section 65A-8-203, for the cost of wildfire suppression within the boundaries of that eligible entity accrued by the state.

(~~{3}~~2) The cost of wildfire suppression to ~~{an eligible entity}~~ a county or municipality that ~~{does}~~is not ~~{enter into}~~covered by a cooperative agreement with the division, as described in Section 65A-8-203, shall be calculated by determining the number of acres burned within the borders of ~~{an eligible entity}~~ a county or municipality, dividing that number by the total number of acres burned by a wildfire, and multiplying the resulting percentage by the state's total cost of wildfire suppression for that wildfire.

(~~{4}~~3) ~~{An eligible entity}~~ A county or municipality that receives a bill from the division, pursuant to this section, shall pay the bill, or make arrangements to pay the bill, within 90 days of receipt of the bill.

Section 13. Section **65A-8-204** is amended to read:

65A-8-204. Wildland Fire Suppression Fund created.

(1) There is created a private-purpose trust fund known as the "Wildland Fire Suppression Fund."

(2) The fund shall be administered by the division to pay [fire] wildfire suppression [and presuppression] costs on eligible lands [within unincorporated areas of counties], including for an eligible entity that has entered into a cooperative agreement, as described in Section 65A-8-203.

(3) The contents of the fund shall include:

~~{(a)}~~ ~~{payments by counties pursuant to written agreements made under Section 65A-8-205;}~~

~~{(b)}~~ (a) interest and earnings from the investment of fund money; [and]

~~{(c)}~~ (b) money appropriated by the Legislature[-];

(c) costs recovered from successful investigations;

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(d) federal funds received by the division for wildfire management costs;

(e) suppression costs billed to an eligible entity that does not participate in a cooperative agreement;

(f) suppression costs paid to the division by another state agency;

(g) costs recovered from settlements and civil actions related to wildfire suppression;

and

(h) restitution payments ordered by a court following a criminal adjudication.

(4) Fund money shall be invested by the state treasurer with the earnings and interest accruing to the fund.

(5) ~~[(a)]~~ A maximum level of \$8,000,000 is established for the fund.

~~[(b)(i) Except as provided in Subsection (5)(b)(ii), if the amount of money in the fund equals or exceeds \$8,000,000 on March 31, no assessments may be charged for the following year.]~~

~~[(ii) The waiver of assessments provided in Subsection (5)(b)(i) does not apply to any equity payment required by Section 65A-8-205.]~~

Section 14. Section **65A-8-206** is amended to read:

65A-8-206. Disbursements from the Wildland Fire Suppression Fund.

(1) Disbursements from the fund created in Section 65A-8-204 shall be made only upon written order of the state forester or ~~[his]~~ the state forester's authorized representative.

(2) If the state forester determines money in the fund may be insufficient to cover eligible costs in a program year, the state forester may:

(a) delay making disbursements from the fund until the close of the program year~~[, at which time available money shall be prorated among those entitled to payments at less than 100%.]; and~~

(b) request supplemental appropriations from the Legislature.

Section 15. Section **65A-8-207** is amended to read:

65A-8-207. Division to administer Wildland Fire Suppression Fund -- Rulemaking -- Procedures.

~~[(1)]~~ By following the procedures and requirements of Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the division shall make rules to administer the Wildland Fire Suppression Fund~~[, including rules:].~~

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~~[(a) requiring documentation for: (i) the number of acres of privately or county-owned land in the unincorporated area of a participating county; and (ii) an acre or real property exempt in Subsection 65A-8-205(2)(b); (b)]~~

~~[(describing the method or formula for determining: (i) normal fire suppression costs; and (ii) equity payments required by Section 65A-8-205; and (c)]~~

~~[(specifying fire suppression and presuppression costs that may be paid with disbursements from the fund.)]~~

~~[(2) By following the procedures and requirements of Title 63G, Chapter 4, Administrative Procedures Act, the division shall determine whether an acre or real property is eligible for the exemption provided in Subsection 65A-8-205(2)(b).]~~

Section 16. Section **65A-8-209** is amended to read:

65A-8-209. Responsibilities of county sheriffs and fire wardens in controlling fires.

(1) In ~~[those counties not directly participating in the state wildland fire protection organization by]~~ a county that has not entered into a cooperative agreement as [provided in this chapter] described in Section 65A-8-203, the county sheriff shall take appropriate action to suppress ~~[uncontrolled fires]~~ wildfires on state or private lands.

(2) In all cases the county sheriff shall:

(a) report, as prescribed by the state forester, on wildland fire control action;

(b) investigate and report ~~[fire]~~ wildfire causes; and

(c) enforce the provisions of this chapter either independently or in cooperation with the state forester.

(3) In ~~[those counties participating in the state wildland fire protection organization by]~~ an eligible entity that has entered into a cooperative agreement, as described in Section 65A-8-203, the primary responsibility for ~~[fire control is delegated to the district fire warden, who is designated by the state forester]~~ wildfire management is the division, upon the delegation of fire management authority, as described in Section 65A-8-203.1.

(4) The county sheriff and ~~[his]~~ the county sheriff's organization shall maintain cooperative support of the fire ~~[control]~~ management organization.

Section 17. Section **65A-8-209.1** is enacted to read:

65A-8-209.1. County fire warden.

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(1) (a) Each county that participates in a cooperative agreement with the division, as described in Section 65A-8-203, shall be represented by a county fire warden at a minimum during the closed fire season, as described in Section 65A-8-211, except as provided in Subsection (1)(b) and (c).

(~~f~~a~~b~~) A county of the fifth class that, as of January 1, ~~2015~~2016, is cost-sharing a fire warden with an adjacent county may continue to do so with the approval of the state forester.

(~~f~~b~~c~~) A county of the sixth class may cost-share a county fire warden with an adjacent county, with the approval of the state forester.

(2) The salary and benefits paid to a county fire warden shall be:

(a) divided by the division and the county; or

(b) paid partly by the division with the remainder shared by agreement between all the counties the county fire warden represents.

(3) (a) The division shall employ all county fire wardens.

(b) An individual who is employed by a county as a county fire warden on or before January 1, 2016, is not subject to the requirement to be employed by the division.

Section 18. Section **65A-8-210** is amended to read:

65A-8-210. Fire control on state-owned lands -- Responsibilities of state agencies.

(1) The division shall abate the public nuisance caused by [~~uncontrolled fire~~] wildfire on state-owned forest, range, [~~and~~] watershed, and wildland urban interface lands.

(2) [~~(a)~~] State agencies responsible for the administration of state-owned lands shall recognize the need for providing wildland fire protection and the responsibility for [~~sharing the costs.~~] (b) Those agencies shall annually allocate funds to the division in amounts as are determined to be fair and equitable proportionate costs for providing a basic level of fire protection. (c) The amount of protection costs shall be negotiated by the respective land agencies and the division.] reducing the risk of wildfire through appropriate wildfire prevention, preparedness, and mitigation actions.

Section 19. Section **65A-8-211** is amended to read:

65A-8-211. Closed fire season -- Notice -- Violations -- Burning permits -- Personal liability -- Exemptions from burning permits.

(1) (a) The period from June 1 to October 31 of each year is a closed fire season

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throughout the state.

(b) The state forester may advance or extend the closed season wherever and whenever that action is necessary.

(c) The alteration of the closed season is done by posting the appropriate proclamation in the courthouse of each county seat for at least seven days in advance of the date the change is effective.

(2) During the closed season it is a class B misdemeanor to set on fire, or cause to be set on fire, any flammable material on any forest, brush, range, grass, grain, stubble, or hay land without:

(a) first securing a written permit from the state forester or a designated deputy; and

(b) complying fully with the terms and conditions prescribed by the permit.

(3) The ~~[district]~~ county fire warden ~~[appointed by the state forester]~~, or the county sheriff ~~[in nonparticipating counties]~~ in a county that has not entered into a cooperative agreement as described in Section 65A-8-203, shall issue burning permits using the form prescribed by the division.

(4) (a) The burning permit does not relieve an individual from personal liability due to neglect or incompetence.

(b) A fire escaping control of the permittee that necessitates fire control action or does injury to the property of another is prima facie evidence that the fire was not safe.

(5) The state forester, ~~[his deputies]~~ the state forester's designees, and the county sheriffs may refuse, revoke, postpone, or cancel permits when they find it necessary in the interest of public safety.

(6) (a) A burning permit is not required for the burning of fence lines on cultivated lands, canals, or irrigation ditches if:

(i) the burning does not pose a threat to forest, range, or watershed lands;

(ii) due care is used in the control of the burning; and

(iii) the individual notifies the nearest fire department of the approximate time the burning will occur.

(b) Failure to notify the nearest fire department of the burning as required by this section is a class B misdemeanor.

(7) A burning conducted in accordance with Subsection (6) is not a reckless burning

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under Section 76-6-104 unless the fire escapes control and requires fire control action.

Section 20. **Repealer.**

This bill repeals:

Section **65A-8-103.5, Wildland fire policy -- Report.**

Section **65A-8-205, Agreements for coverage by the Wildland Fire Suppression Fund -- Eligible lands -- County and state obligations -- Termination -- Revocation.**

Section **65A-8-208, Presuppression costs -- Disbursements from fund -- Credit against assessment -- Limited by appropriation.**

Section 21. **Effective date.**

This bill takes effect on January 1, 2017.

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Legislative Review Note

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel