

AMENDMENTS TO LB 634

Introduced by Davis

1           1. Strike the original sections and all amendments  
2 thereto and insert the following new sections:

3           Section 1. Sections 1 to 4 of this act shall be known and  
4 may be cited as the Wildfire Control Act of 2013.

5           Sec. 2. The Legislature finds that the State of  
6 Nebraska's forests, pasture lands, and rangelands have been  
7 destroyed by catastrophic wildfires, primarily due to higher  
8 temperatures, intense and prolonged drought, increased forest  
9 fuel-loads, and the extensive spread of Eastern Red Cedar trees  
10 into forests, pasture lands, and rangelands. Because of these  
11 conditions, wildfires occur more frequently, spread and grow very  
12 rapidly upon ignition, and consume large tracts of productive land.  
13 These severe, fast-moving wildfires put the lives of citizens,  
14 emergency responders, and visitors at great risk, are difficult  
15 to control, quickly overwhelm local suppression capacity, and cost  
16 enormous amounts of money to suppress and control.

17           Sec. 3. (1) Pursuant to the Wildfire Control Act of 2013,  
18 the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency shall contract for all  
19 costs to place one single-engine air tanker in Nebraska for use in  
20 fighting wildfires.

21           (2) It is the intent of the Legislature that the Nebraska  
22 Emergency Management Agency deploy the single-engine air tanker  
23 quickly and without delay so as to prevent the rapid spread of

1 wildfires upon ignition.

2 (3) The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency shall  
3 prepare a report on or before December 1 of each year describing  
4 (a) the date and time each request to deploy a single-engine air  
5 tanker is made to the agency, (b) the date and time a single-engine  
6 air tanker was deployed in response to a request for such a tanker,  
7 (c) an explanation of the reason for any delay of more than one  
8 hour from the time of a request for deployment of a single-engine  
9 air tanker and the time of the actual deployment of such a tanker,  
10 and (d) an explanation of the reason for the denial of a request  
11 to deploy a single-engine air tanker. The report shall be submitted  
12 electronically to the Governor and to the Clerk of the Legislature.

13 Sec. 4. Pursuant to the Wildfire Control Act of 2013,  
14 the Nebraska Forest Service shall (1) administer programs to thin  
15 forests to reduce forest fuel-loads in order to substantially  
16 reduce wildfire risk, intensity, and rate of spread and develop  
17 markets for woody biomass generated from forest thinnings, (2)  
18 provide expanded training programs for volunteer firefighters,  
19 private landowners, and communities in Nebraska in fire suppression  
20 tactics of wildfires in order to increase suppression effectiveness  
21 and safety, (3) expand the federal excess property programs  
22 sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture and  
23 the United States Department of Defense and managed by the Nebraska  
24 Forest Service in Nebraska, (4) oversee the rehabilitation of  
25 forest lands that have been destroyed by wildfires, (5) manage  
26 single-engine air tanker bases and operations in Nebraska, and (6)  
27 contract to construct at least two single-engine air tanker bases

1 and develop one or more mobile single-engine air tanker bases in  
2 Nebraska.

3           Sec. 5. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect  
4 when passed and approved according to law.