

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 421  
2 INTRODUCED BY S. GIST

3  
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT INCREASING FIRE PROTECTION ASSESSMENT RATES  
5 COLLECTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION; AMENDING  
6 SECTION 76-13-201, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

7  
8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

9  
10 **Section 1.** Section 76-13-201, MCA, is amended to read:

11 **"76-13-201. Costs for protection from fire.** (1) An owner of land classified as forest land that is  
12 within a wildland fire protection district or that is otherwise under contract for fire protection by a recognized  
13 agency is subject to the fees for fire protection provided in this section.

14 (2) The department shall provide fire protection to the land described in subsection (1) at a cost to  
15 the landowner of not more than \$50 \$58.70 for each landowner in the protection district and of not more than an  
16 additional ~~30~~ 49 cents per acre per year for each acre in excess of 20 acres owned by each landowner in each  
17 protection district, as necessary to yield the amount of money provided for in 76-13-207. Assessment, payment,  
18 and collection of the fire protection costs must be in accordance with 76-13-207.

19 (3) Other charges may not be assessed to a participating landowner except in cases of proved  
20 negligence on the part of the landowner or the landowner's agent or in the event of a violation of 50-63-103."

21  
22 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2025.

23 - END -