

E AND R AMENDMENTS TO LB 634

Introduced by Murante, 49, Chairman Enrollment and Review

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

3 Section 1. Sections 1 to 3 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 land, and rangeland have been destroyed
7 by catastrophic wildfires, primarily due to higher temperatures,
8 intense and prolonged drought, increased forest fuel-loads, and the
9 extensive spread of Eastern Red Cedar trees into forests, pasture
10 land, and rangeland. Because of these conditions, wildfires occur
11 more frequently, spread and grow very rapidly upon ignition, and
12 consume large tracts of productive land. These severe, fast-moving
13 wildfires put the lives of citizens, emergency responders, and
14 visitors at great risk, are difficult to control, quickly overwhelm
15 local suppression capacity, and cost enormous amounts of funds to
16 suppress and control.

17 Sec. 3. Pursuant to the Wildfire Control Act of 2013,
18 the Nebraska Forest Service shall (1) contract to place two
19 single-engine air tankers to be located near Chadron, Nebraska,
20 and near Valentine, Nebraska, for use in fighting wildfires, (2)
21 thin forests to reduce forest fuel-loads in order to substantially
22 reduce wildfire risk, intensity, and rate of the spreading of
23 wildfires, (3) provide expanded training programs for volunteer

1 firefighters, private landowners, and communities in Nebraska
2 in fire suppression tactics of wildfires in order to increase
3 suppression effectiveness and safety, (4) expand the federal excess
4 property programs sponsored by the United States Department of
5 Agriculture and the United States Department of Defense and managed
6 by the Nebraska Forest Service in Nebraska, and (5) oversee
7 the rehabilitation of forest lands that have been destroyed by
8 wildfires.

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

11 2. On page 1, strike beginning with "provide" in line 2
12 through line 4 and insert "declare an emergency."