

Bill No.: HB0192 **Effective:** 7/1/2025

LSO No.: 25LSO-0530

Enrolled Act No.: HEA No. 0058

Chapter No.: 119

Prime Sponsor: Larson, JT

Catch Title: **Public utilities-wildfire mitigation and liability limits.**

Has Report: No

Subject: Requiring utilities to prepare wildfire mitigation plans.

Summary/Major Elements:

- This act requires electric utilities to prepare a wildfire mitigation plan that outlines actions the electric utility will take to minimize the risk of wildfire and to respond to wildfire events.
- The act specifies what electric utilities must include in the wildfire mitigation plan, including areas that may be subject to a heightened wildfire risk, a description of the standards for inspecting infrastructure and performing vegetation management, procedures for de-energizing power lines to mitigate potential wildfires, and procedures to restore service after a wildfire.
- The act requires each electric utility to submit its wildfire mitigation plan to the Public Service Commission for review and approval. The Commission must approve the plan if it finds that the plan is reasonable, in the public interest, and appropriately balances the costs of implementing the plan with the risks of a potential wildfire. The act requires each utility to submit an updated plan every five (5) years and to submit an annual report on complying with the plan.
- The act creates a presumption in civil actions that an approved wildfire mitigation plan is a reasonable and prudent preparation for, and mitigation of, wildfire risk.
- This act limits a person's ability to recover from an electric utility for losses associated with a wildfire. A person may recover economic losses from an electric utility associated with wildfire damages if: (1) the electric utility failed to substantially comply with an approved wildfire mitigation plan; or (2) the electric utility acted with gross negligence, malice, or criminal intent, and the action or inaction was the actual and proximate cause of the damages to the person.

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- The act specifies requirements and procedures for bringing an action against an electric utility for wildfire-related damages, including a four (4) year filing deadline and a limitation on recovering noneconomic losses.
- This act requires the Public Service Commission to promulgate rules.

Comments:

- This act has a split effective date. The rulemaking provisions are effective immediately, while the remainder of the act is effective on July 1, 2025.

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