

1 State of Arkansas
2 90th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2015

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1379

4
5 By: Representatives Bragg, Ballinger, Baltz, Bell, Harris, Holcomb, Jean, Lampkin, McElroy, Vaught,
6 Wardlaw

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE ASSESSMENT OF
10 TIMBERLAND; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER
11 PURPOSES.

Subtitle

15 TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE
16 ASSESSMENT OF TIMBERLAND AND TO DECLARE
17 AN EMERGENCY.

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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 14-284-212(g), concerning assessments for
23 fire protection districts outside cities or towns, is amended to add an
24 additional subdivision to read as follows:

25 (3)(A)(i) On and after the effective date of this act, the
26 elected board of commissioners of a fire protection district shall assess
27 timberland at a rate not to exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the forest
28 fire protection tax under § 26-61-103.

29 (ii) The current assessment rate on timberland in
30 effect on the effective date of this act may stay the same but shall not be
31 increased beyond the rate under this subdivision (g)(3).

32 (B) As used in this section, "timberland" means the same
33 as defined in §26-61-102.

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35 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General
36 Assembly of the State of Arkansas that there are millions of acres of



1 privately-owned timberland in this state; that private timberland owners pay
 2 a forest fire protection tax to the Arkansas Forestry Commission to assist
 3 with the provision of fire services for those timberlands; and that this act
 4 is immediately necessary to limit the amount of fees, assessments, and taxes
 5 a timberland owner pays for the same services. Therefore, an emergency is
 6 declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the
 7 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective
 8 on:

9 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

10 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
 11 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
 12 bill; or

13 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
 14 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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