

## HOUSE BILL No. 2326

By Representative Hutchins

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AN ACT concerning the Kansas forest service; providing for master fire protection planning in Kansas and the development and implementation of county-wide master fire protection plans; amending K.S.A. 76-425d and repealing the existing section.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

New Section 1. (a) Under the general supervision of the board and direct administration by Kansas state university, the Kansas forest service shall conduct a state-wide project for master fire protection planning in cooperation with the state association of Kansas resource conservation and development councils and with rural and municipal fire departments, fire districts and other governmental entities performing fire protection and firefighting services. Master fire protection planning shall be part of the statewide rural fire protection program and shall be conducted (1) to provide increased protection for life and property, (2) to ensure the safety of all firefighters, (3) to outline strategies to reduce insurance office ratings which would result in lower fire insurance premiums for residential and commercial property and to secure other benefits related to improved fire protection, including, but not limited to, water conservation, increased operating efficiencies, long-term cost savings and enhanced rural development, and (4) to identify the projected costs to implement and administer such county-wide master fire protection plans.

(b) Upon request of counties and local fire departments and within the limitations of appropriations available therefor, the state forester shall initiate and provide technical and financial assistance for the development and implementation of new county-wide master fire protection plans and for the ongoing maintenance, revision and updating of existing county-wide master fire protection plans. Each county-wide master fire protection plan shall include detailed information regarding:

(1) the specific mission, goals and objectives of each local fire department;

(2) an analysis of county fire suppression coverage;

(3) specific recommendations for needed equipment, water supply and training;

(4) a timetable for fire departments to achieve lower insurance rat-

1 ings; and

2 (5) savings achieved from lower insurance service office classifications  
3 on residential and commercial insurance premiums.

4 (c) Financial assistance provided by the state forester to counties and  
5 local fire departments for development and implementation of new  
6 county-wide master fire protection plans or for the ongoing maintenance,  
7 revision and updating of existing county-wide master fire protection plans  
8 shall be matched by the counties and local fire departments in a manner  
9 determined by the state forester which shall take into consideration the  
10 needs and the abilities of the counties and local fire departments to match  
11 amounts available for such assistance.

12 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 76-425d is hereby amended to read as follows: 76-  
13 425d. Under the general supervision of the board and direct administra-  
14 tion of Kansas state university, the service shall:

15 (a) Supervise, generally, all forest management and all forestation and  
16 reforestation work conducted by the state;

17 (b) promote practical forestry;

18 (c) encourage the development and use of forest resources;

19 (d) compile and publish information and instructions relating to for-  
20 estry and reforestation;

21 (e) provide assistance in forestry and reforestation to owners and op-  
22 erators of forest lands;

23 (f) provide assistance for the protection of the forest resources of the  
24 state, both public and private, from insects and diseases;

25 (g) provide assistance for the prevention and suppression of forest,  
26 brush or grassland fires in nonfederal areas of the state ~~except on lands~~  
27 *that are within the exterior boundaries of incorporated cities, except as*  
28 *provided for master fire protection planning under section 1 and amend-*  
29 *ments thereto;*

30 (h) foster and promote the control of soil erosion on forest lands;

31 (i) carry on an assistance program with forest landowners and oper-  
32 ators in the practice of forestry, including the growing, harvesting and  
33 marketing of forest products and in the management of forests for other  
34 multiple benefits such as water quality, streambank stabilization, erosion  
35 control, wildlife and recreation;

36 (j) carry on an assistance program with forest products processors in  
37 the processing and marketing of such products;

38 (k) cooperate with other agencies and organizations in conducting  
39 forestry related programs, including riparian and wetland protection and  
40 nonpoint source pollution control;

41 (l) produce, procure and distribute forest-tree seeds and plants for  
42 the purpose of establishing or reestablishing forests, windbreaks, shelter  
43 belts, living snowfences, farm woodlots, Christmas tree plantings, erosion

1 control water quality, wildlife habitat and other conservation type tree  
2 plantings;

3 (m) provide an assistance program to nonforest landowners and op-  
4 erators in establishing trees and shrubs for conservation plantings;

5 (n) provide assistance to city governing bodies in planting, maintain-  
6 ing, treating and removing trees on public property;

7 (o) provide information and education to city governing bodies, tree  
8 care professionals and the general public in urban and community tree  
9 planting and care; and

10 (p) cooperate with and assist the cooperative extension service and  
11 other appropriate agencies in conducting educational programs and dem-  
12 onstrations in forest management, forestation, reforestation and other for-  
13 estry related programs.

14 Sec. 3. K.S.A. 76-425d is hereby repealed.

15 Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
16 publication in the statute book.

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