

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 623

BY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY; AMENDING SECTION 39-114, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE THAT CERTAIN USES OF FLAME-GENERATING EQUIPMENT IS PERMISSIBLE AND DOES NOT REQUIRE PREAPPROVAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OR THE PAYMENT OF A FEE.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Section 39-114, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

39-114. OPEN BURNING OF CROP RESIDUE. (1) The open burning of crop residue to develop physiological conditions conducive to increase crop yields, or to control diseases, insects, pests or weed infestations shall be an allowable form of open burning, such that it is expressly authorized as referenced in section 52-108, Idaho Code, so long as the open burning is conducted in accordance with the provisions of this section and the rules promulgated pursuant to this chapter.

(2) Crop residue means any vegetative material remaining in the field after harvest or vegetative material produced on designated conservation reserve program (CRP) lands.

(3) The open burning of crop residue shall be conducted in the field where it was generated. A burn may not take place without preapproval from the department. The department shall not approve a burn if it determines that ambient air quality levels:

(a) Are exceeding, or are expected to exceed, seventy-five percent (75%) of the level of any national ambient air quality standard on any day, and these levels are projected to continue or recur over at least the next twenty-four (24) hours; or

(b) Have reached, or are forecasted to reach and persist at, eighty percent (80%) of the one (1) hour action criteria for particulate matter pursuant to section 556 of IDAPA 58.01.01, rules for the control of air pollution in Idaho.

The department shall make available to the public, prior to the burn, information regarding the date of the burn, location, acreage and crop type to be burned. If the agricultural community desires to burn more than twenty thousand (20,000) acres annually of bluegrass within the state, that does not include Indian or tribal lands within the reservation boundaries as recognized by the federal clean air act, then, prior to approving the burning of the additional acres, the department shall complete an air quality review analysis to determine that the ambient air quality levels in this section will be met.

(4) A fee in an amount of two dollars (\$2.00) per acre to be burned shall be paid to the department prior to burning. The department shall remit all

1 fees quarterly to the state treasurer, who shall deposit the moneys in the
2 general fund.

3 (5) The use of flame-generating equipment to briefly apply flame or
4 heat to the topsoil of a cultivated field of pre-emerged or plowed-under
5 mint that contains minimal exposed combustible material, in order to control
6 diseases, insects, pests and weed emergence, is an allowable form of open
7 burning that does not require preapproval from the department or the payment
8 of a fee.