# HOUSE BILL NO. 659

- 2/04 Introduced
- 2/04 Referred to Agriculture, Livestock & Irrig.
  2/05 Fiscal Note Requested
  2/11 Fiscal Note Received

- 2/13 Hearing
  Died in Committee

Montana Legislative Council

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1	HOUSE BILL NO. 654		
2	INTRODUCED BY The Com Smith annie		
3	BY REQUEST, OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL		
4	Jette nimore sachur that happy South free 1		
5	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO BE KNOWN AS THE		
6	MOXIOUS PLANT MANAGEMENT ACT, GENERALLY REVISING THE LAWS (		
7	RELATING TO COUNTY WEED CONTROL; AMENDING SECTIONS 7-3-4453,		
8	7-14-2131, 7-14-2132, 7-22-2215, 7-22-4101, 70-30-314		
٥	77-6-113, 77-6-114, 77-6-303, AND 80-5-101, MCA; REPEALING Na		
10	SECTIONS 7-22-2101 THROUGH 7-22-2108, 7-22-2121 THROUGH		
11	7-22-2127, AND 7-22-2141 THROUGH 7-22-2150, MCA; AND		
12	PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."		
13	Yellowtan		
14	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:		
15	NEW SECTION. Section 1. Short title. [Sections 1		
16	through 21) may be cited as the "Noxious Plant Management		
17	Act".		
18	NEW SECTION. Section 2. Policy and purpose. Noxious		
19	plants are an economic and environmental problem requiring		
20	intensive long-term management. The management of noxious		
21	plants is primarily the responsibility of landowners.		
22	Whenever infestations are of an unusual nature, proportion,		
23	or intensity, the cooperation and resources of individuals,		
24	communities, and governmental entities may be desirable to		
25	manage noxious plants. Therefore, each county shall develop,		

fund, and implement an immediate and long-range noxious plant management program. The county shall take particular precautions to protect the environment in planning and implementing this program.

NEW SECTION. Section 3. Definitions. As used in [sections 1 through 21], the following definitions apply:

- (1) "Board" means any noxious plant management board created under [section 6].
- 9 (2) "Department" means the department of agriculture 10 provided for in Title, 2, chapter 15, part 30.
  - (3) "District" means all land within one or more counties designated for the management of noxious plants.
  - (4) "Intensive management zone" means an area delineated by the board in which the board may impose stricter management standards for certain noxious plant species, require responsible parties to enter into noxious plant management agreements, or impose other necessary conditions as part of a concerted noxious plant management effort.
- 20 (5) "Land" means all land and water, including 21 structures, buildings, contrivances, and machinery, fixed or 22 mobile, situated on the land or used for harvest or 23 transportation.
- 24 (6) "Management of noxious plants" or "to manage 25 noxious plants" means planning, implementing, and monitoring

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the integrated use of chemical, physical, cultural, mechanical, biological, preventative, or other techniques to eradicate noxious plants or to reduce the intensity or distribution of a noxious plant infestation, to prevent the spread of noxious plants, or to prevent noxious plants from sprouting, rooting, or going to seed.

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- (7) "Noxious plant" means any exotic plant species designated pursuant to the provisions of [sections 1 through 21] which is capable of becoming established in suitable habitat and is difficult to control and which may render land unfit for agriculture, forestry, livestock, wildlife, or other beneficial uses.
- (8) "Noxious plant management agreement" means a written contract between the board and a responsible party, specifying the techniques to be used by the responsible party to manage noxious plants on his land.
- (9) "Noxious plant management standards" means the written descriptions of the most effective management techniques for each noxious plant designated statewide or within a district.
- (10) "Noxious plant part" means the seed, root part, modified stem, or other tissue capable of producing a noxious plant.
- 24 (11) "Person" means any individual, association,
  25 partnership, corporation, estate, or other similar entity.

1 (12) "Prohibited noxious plant" means any noxious plant
2 which has been designated as prohibited pursuant to the
3 provisions of [sections 1 through 21] and which is not known
4 to occur or is not widely distributed in Montana, but which
5 could become established and threaten and iculture, forestry,
6 livestock, wildlife, or other beneficial land uses in
7 Montana if not eradicated.

- (13) "Prohibited noxious plant part" means the seed, root part, modified stem, or other tissue capable of producing a prohibited noxious plant.
- 11 (14) "Public notice" means the publication of specified
  12 information in the newspaper or newspapers of general
  13 circulation in the district and, whenever feasible, the
  14 announcement of specified information through news releases
  15 to the print and broadcast media, posted notices, and other
  16 appropriate means.
- 17 (15) "Responsible party" means the person who has
  18 financial responsibility for managing noxious plants on an
  19 area of land. The responsible party is the landowner unless
  20 a written agreement is in effect specifying that a lessee,
  21 occupant, manager, employee, or other person has financial
  22 responsibility for noxious plant management on a specified
  23 area of land.
- 24 (16) "Standards exemption zone" means an area 25 delineated by the board in which those noxious plants

specified by the board need not be managed in accordance with the noxious plant management standards of the district.

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- (17) "Supervisor" means the person employed by the board to conduct a noxious plant management program and to supervise other employees of the noxious plant management program.
- NEW SECTION. Section 4. Prohibition against noxious plants. No responsible party may allow any noxious plant to propagate or to go to seed on his land, except that any responsible party who adheres to the noxious plant management standards of his district or who has entered into and is in compliance with a noxious plant management agreement is considered to be in compliance with [sections 1 through 21].
- NEW SECTION. Section 5. Districts. A noxious plant management district must be formed for each county and must include all land within the county. However, two or more counties may agree to form a single noxious plant management district. The establishment of a district encompassing two or more counties must be done in accordance with the provisions of the Interlocal Cooperation Act (Title 7, chapter 11, part 1).
- NEW SECTION. Section 6. Appointment of board. (1) The county governing body or bodies within a district shall appoint a noxious plant management board. If a district is

- 1 composed of more than one county, the governing bodies of
  - the counties shall together appoint a single noxious plant
- 3 management board. The county governing body or bodies within
- 4 a district shall set by resolution the number of board
- 5 members, but in no case may a board consist of fewer than
  - three or more than seven members. A majority of board
- 7 members must be agricultural producers within the district;
- 8 at least one other board member shall reside in a
- 9 municipality within the district.
- 10 (2) The initial terms of board members shall commence
- 11 in January 1986. Any subsequent appointments or
- 12 reappointments to the board must be made in the month of
- 13 January. The county weed board shall continue to operate the
- 14 weed control program in the district until the initial
- 15 noxious plant management board is appointed.
- 16 (3) The term of a board member is 3 years, except as
- 17 provided in subsection (4).
- 18 (4) The expiration dates of terms must be staggered so
  - that at least one term expires each January, which must be
- 20 accomplished by appointing some members of the initial board
- 21 of each district to 1- and 2-year terms.
- 22 (5) The county governing body or bodies within a
- 23 district may limit the number of terms each member may
- 24 serve.

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25 (6) The board shall annually elect from its members a

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chairman, who has full voting privileges. The chairman may appoint a secretary.

- (7) The county extension agent is a nonvoting ex officio member of the board and shall provide technical assistance to the board. The board may appoint other nonvoting ex officio members.
- (8) The county governing body or bodies within a district shall by resolution set any salary, per diem, and mileage to be paid to board members and any per diem and mileage to be paid to ex officio board members.

 NEW SECTION. Section 7. Duties and powers of board.

(1) The board shall establish policies and implement a program for the immediate and long-range management of noxious plants on all land within the district.

- (2) The board shall adopt a noxious plant management plan as the basis for its noxious plant management program, as provided in {section 8}.
- 18 (3) The board may designate noxious plants within the 19 district, as provided in [section 9].
  - (4) The board shall adopt noxious plant management standards for each noxious plant designated statewide or within the district. The management standards for prohibited noxious plants must call for eradication. The board shall issue public notice of the availability of the standards each spring and shall distribute the standards to the public

on request and in any other appropriate manner.

- 2 (5) The board may issue orders to restrict the
  3 movement of any materials, products, or equipment into,
  4 within, or out of a district when they are known to carry or
  5 suspected of carrying noxious plants or noxious plant parts.
  6 The board shall issue orders to restrict the movement of any
  7 materials, products, or equipment when they are known or
  8 suspected to carry prohibited noxious plants or prohibited
  9 noxious plant parts. Orders issued by the board under this
  10 subsection must be enforced by the county law enforcement
  11 authority.
  - management zones within the district as it considers appropriate. The board shall specify which noxious plant species within a zone are to be subject to intensive management provisions; other noxious plants must continue to be managed according to the noxious plant management standards of the district. An intensive management zone may consist of land which has a noxious plant infestation of particular concern, land which lies within a specified drainage or cooperative management area, land which imparticularly susceptible to a new infestation of noxious plants, or any other land where the board chooses to undertake a concerted noxious plant management effort.
  - (7) The board may delineate as many standards

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exemption zones within the district as it considers appropriate. A standards exemption zone consists of land where management of specified noxious plants according to is economically infeasible or district standards environmentally incompatible. The board shall specify which species of noxious plants within each zone are included in the standards exemption delineation and thus need not be managed according to the noxious plant management standards of the district. The board may adopt and enforce alternate management standards for the specified noxious plants within a zone and may require specific management actions to limit the spread of these noxious plants to adjacent lands. All other noxious plants in the standards exemption zone must continue to be managed according to the noxious plant management standards of the district.

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- (8) Except as provided in subsection (9), the board shall issue public notice of its intention to delineate any intensive management zone or standards exemption zone not less than 15 days or more than 45 days before taking action. The board shall accept public comment during this period and shall provide the opportunity for oral testimony on the proposal during at least one board meeting prior to its decision on whether to delineate any intensive management zone or standards exemption zone.
  - (9) The board need not comply with the provisions of

- subsection (8) for any intensive management zone or standards exemption zone delineated through the process of adopting the district noxious plant management plan.
  - (10) The board may issue orders requiring any person to comply with the policies, standards, plan, or other provisions of the noxious plant management program of the district.
- 8 (11) The board shall employ a supervisor to conduct the 9 management program. The board may assign specific duties and 10 powers to the supervisor, to other employees, or to 11 designated agents.
- 12 (12) The board shall administer the noxious plant
  13 management fund, maintain financial records, and disburse
  14 funds to pay employees, to purchase necessary materials and
  15 equipment, and to pay other operational costs of the noxious
  16 plant management program.
- (13) The board shall hold regularly scheduled public 17 meetings. The board shall issue public notice of these 18 19 meetings and shall keep minutes for public record. A 20 majority of the board constitutes a quorum for the conduct 21 of business. The board may hold a hearing on any element of 22 the noxious plant management program. The board shall issue 2.3 public notice of any hearing and keep a record of the 24 hearing.
- 25 (14) The board shall publish and make available to the

- public an annual report on the noxious plant management
  program within the district.
- 3 (15) The board may undertake other suitable activities4 to further noxious plant management.
- 5 (16) The board shall comply with all applicable county, 6 state, and federal laws and regulations in implementing the 7 noxious plant management program.
  - NEW SECTION. Section 8. Noxious plant management plan. (1) The noxious plant management program must be based on a plan approved by the board.
    - (2) The noxious plant management plan must:

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- (a) specify the goals and priorities of the program;
- 13 (b) review the distribution and abundance of each
  14 noxious plant species known to occur within the district and
  15 specify the locations of new infestations and areas
  16 particularly susceptible to new infestations; and
- 17 (c) estimate the personnel, operations, and equipment
  18 costs of the proposed program.
  - (3) The noxious plant management plan may:
  - (a) discuss the damage caused by each noxious plant species occurring within the district and the apparent hazard posed by other noxious plant species that might invade the district;
- (b) describe the proposed techniques and alternativesfor managing each noxious plant species and for eradicating

- each prohibited noxious plant species occurring within the district;
- 3 (c) discuss the likelihood of invasion by noxious 4 plant species not known to occur within the district and 5 present a plan for preventing invas in and for managing 6 these noxious plants should invasion occur;
- 7 (d) delineate any intensive management zones, specify
  8 the species subject to intensive management within each
  9 zone, and present any alternate management standards;
- 10 (e) delineate any standards exemption zones, specify
  11 the species exempt from district noxious plant management
  12 standards within each zone, and present any alternate
  13 management standards:
- 14 (f) describe the probable effect of management 15 techniques on each noxious plant species, on nontarget 16 plants and animals, and on agriculture and the environment;
- 17 (g) present management standards for the revegetation
  18 of lands disturbed by development;
- (h) describe the evaluation procedures to be used to assess the effectiveness of the noxious plant management program;
- 22 (i) present the procedures for review of noxious plant 23 management agreements proposed voluntarily by persons in the 24 district, as provided in [section 14]; and
- 25 (j) present any other relevant information.

1 (4) The plan must cover a period of at least 5 years. 2 The plan must be updated at intervals no longer than 5 years 3 to review the status of noxious plants in the district, to set new management priorities, to evaluate the effectiveness 4 5 management techniques, to review special zone 6 delineations, and to reflect changes in land use and ownership within the district.

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- (5) Prior to adopting any plan, the board shall prepare a draft plan and issue public notice of its availability. The notice must specify the date on which the board will conduct a public hearing on the draft plan. The hearing date must be not less than 15 days or more than 45 days after the issuance of public notice. The board shall accept public comment on the draft plan for at least 7 days after the hearing.
- (6) The board shall give due consideration to public comment and may revise the draft plan. The board shall make any revised draft plan available to the public and may hold another public hearing and accept additional public comment if the revised draft plan differs significantly from the previous draft.
- (7) Following the public comment and hearing process, 22 the board shall formally adopt a noxious plant management 23 24 plan. Until a draft plan is adopted as final, the existing noxious plant management program or weed control program 25

remains in effect.

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2 (8) The board shall issue an initial draft plan by January 1, 1987. The initial noxious plant management plan must be adopted by March 1, 1987.

NEW SECTION. Section 9. Designation of noxious plants

- and prohibited noxious plants. (1) The department shall 7 designate by rule those plant species to be considered noxious plants and prohibited noxious plants statewide.
- Plant species so designated statewide must be considered 10 noxious in every district of the state.
- (2) All provisions of [sections 1 through 21] that 11 12 apply to noxious plants also apply to prohibited noxious 13 plants, except when special provisions are provided for the 14 management of prohibited noxious plants.
- 15 (3) The department shall forward a notice of all 16 noxious plants and prohibited noxious plants designated 17 statewide to the board of each district in the state.
- 18 (4) The plant species designated as noxious weeds on 19 district or county lists prior to any rulemaking proceedings 20 pursuant to this section must be managed as noxious plants 21 until the department completes its rulemaking designating an 22 initial list of statewide noxious plants.
- 23 (5) The board may designate a noxious plant in the 24 district if the species meets the definition in [section 3] 25 and if the following procedures are followed:

- 1 (a) The board shall issue public notice of its 2 intention to designate one or more plant species as noxious 3 plants and to hold a public hearing.
- 4 (b) The board shall hold a public hearing on its
  5 proposal not less than 15 days or more than 45 days after
  6 the issuance of public notice. The board shall accept public
  7 comment on its proposal for at least 7 days after the
  8 hearing.
- 9 (c) The board shall give due consideration to public
  10 comment and shall decide, within 30 days after the close of
  11 the public comment period, whether to designate the plant
  12 species as noxious.
- 13 (6) The board may not designate prohibited noxious
  14 plants.

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- NEW SECTION. Section 10. Cooperative agreements.

  (1) Any state agency controlling land within a district, including the department of highways; the department of state lands; the department of fish, wildlife, and parks; the department of institutions; the department of natural resources and conservation; and the university system, must enter into a written agreement with the board. The agreement must specify mutual responsibilities for noxious plant management on state-owned or state-controlled land within the district.
- 25 (2) The board and the governing body of each

- . incorporated municipality within the district must enter
- 2 into a written agreement and must cooperatively plan for the
- 3 management of noxious plants within the boundaries of the
- municipality. The board may implement management procedures
- 5 described in the plan within the boundaries of the
- 6 municipality for noxious plants only. Control of nuisance
- 7 weeds within the municipality remains the responsibility of
- the governing body of the municipality, as specified in
- 9 7-22-4101.
- 10 (3) A board may develop and carry out its noxious
- 11 plant management program in cooperation with boards of other
- 12 districts, with state or federal governments and their
- 13 agencies, or with any person within the district. The board
- 14 may enter into cooperative agreements with any of these
- 15 parties.
- 16 NEW SECTION. Section 11. Revegetation of
- 17 rights-of-way and disturbed areas. (1) Any state agency or
- 18 local government unit approving a mine, major facility,
- transmission line, solid waste facility, highway,
- 20 subdivision, or any other development resulting in
- 21 significant disturbance of land within a district shall
- 22 notify the board.
- 23 (2) Whenever any person or agency disturbs vegetation
- 24 on an easement or right-of-way within a district by
- 25 construction of a road, irrigation or drainage ditch,

pipeline, transmission line, or other development, the board shall require that the disturbed areas be seeded, planted, or otherwise managed to reestablish a cover of beneficial plants.

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- (3) (a) The person or agency disturbing the land shall submit to the board a written plan specifying the methods to be used to accomplish revegetation. The plan must describe the time and method of seeding, fertilization practices, recommended plant species, use of weed-free seed, and the noxious plant management procedures to be used.
  - (b) The plan is subject to approval by the board, which may require revisions to bring the revegetation plan into compliance with the district noxious plant management plan. Upon approval by the board, the revegetation plan is considered a noxious plant management agreement and must be signed by the chairman of the board and the person or agency responsible for the disturbance.
- NEW SECTION. Section 12. Operation of management program for noxious plants not covered by an intensive management zone designation. (1) Each responsible party shall manage noxious plants on his lands in accordance with the noxious plant management standards adopted by the board or as set forth in a noxious plant management agreement that supersedes the district standards.
- 25 (2) If a complaint has been made by any person that

- noxious plants on any land within the district are not being managed in accordance with the noxious plant management standards or if the supervisor has reason to believe that noxious plants are not being so managed, the supervisor may have the land inspected. If the supervisor finds that noxious plants are not being managed in accordance with the district noxious plant management standards, he contact the responsible party to advise him of violation. The responsible party shall then have 10 days to reach a management agreement with the supervisor.
  - (3) If the supervisor and the responsible party reach an agreement, the terms must be put into a written noxious plant management agreement and signed by both parties.
  - (4) If the supervisor and the responsible party cannot reach an agreement within 10 days, the supervisor shall prepare a noxious plant management proposal for the land and shall present it to the board for review. The board may modify the proposal as it considers necessary to accomplish noxious plant management objectives. Approval of the proposal by the board constitutes an order directing the responsible party to manage noxious plants according to the provisions contained therein.
- NEW SECTION. Section 13. Operation of the management program for noxious plants covered by an intensive management zone designation. (1) The board shall determine

- the techniques to be used to manage the specified noxious
  plants within an intensive management zone. These required
  techniques may vary within the zone, depending on the
  character of the land, the nature of the noxious plant
  infestation, and the management goal for each site.
- 6 (2) The board shall announce the required management
  7 techniques to each responsible party controlling land within
  8 the zone. The announcement may be made through personal
  9 contact, letter, or public notice.

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- (3) The board may require any responsible party controlling land within the intensive management zone to enter into a noxious plant management agreement. If the board so directs, the supervisor shall prepare a noxious plant management agreement for the land. The supervisor shall attempt to consult and cooperate with the responsible party in the development of the agreement. The development of the agreement must proceed as provided in (section 12(3) and (4)).
- 19 NEW SECTION. Section 14. Standards exemption zones --20 voluntary noxious plant management acreements. (1) Responsible parties are exempt from complying with the 21 22 district noxious plant management standards for the 23 specified noxious plant species within a standards exemption 24 zone delineated by the board; however, responsible parties 25 must comply with any alternate management standards adopted

- by the board for the specified noxious plants within the zone.
- 3 (2) Any responsible party may voluntarily seek to enter into a noxious plant management agreement with the 5 board as a means of receiving specific direction for managing noxious plants or as a means of receiving approval 7 for managing noxious plants in a manner different from that prescribed in the noxious plant management standards of the 9 district. The supervisor may draft a noxious plant 10 management plan upon the request of and in cooperation with 11 any responsible party; however, the agreement must, in the supervisor's judgment, provide for effective noxious plant 12 13 management. The noxious plant management agreement must be 14 signed by the responsible party and, upon approval of the 15 board, by the chairman.
- 16 (3) Any person may voluntarily seek to enter into a 17 noxious plant management agreement for the management of 18 noxious plants on a state or county highway right-of-way bordering his land. The supervisor may draft such an 19 20 agreement upon the request of and in cooperation with the person; however, the agreement must, in the supervisor's 22 judgment, provide for effective noxious plant management. 23 The noxious plant management agreement must be signed by the 24 person and, upon approval of the board, by the chairman. An 25 agreement including a state highway right-of-way must also

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be signed by a representative of the department of highways. 1 The agreement must contain a statement disclaiming any liability of the board and the department of highways for 3 any injuries or losses suffered by the person in managing 4 noxious plants on a state or county highway right-of-way. 5 The signed agreement transfers responsibility for managing 6 noxious plants on the specified section of right-of-way from the board to the person signing the agreement. If the board 8 later finds that the person has failed to adhere to the noxious plant management agreement, the board shall issue an 10 order informing the person that the noxious plant management 11 agreement will be void and that responsibility for the 12 management of noxious plants on the right-of-way will revert 13 to the board unless the person complies with the provisions 14 of the agreement within a specified time period. 15

NEW SECTION. Section 15. Implementation of noxious plant management by board. (1) The board may implement noxious plant management measures on land within the district in accord with its management plan if:

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- (a) the land is county-owned or county-controlled;
- (b) the land is covered by a cooperative agreement with a state or federal agency, Indian tribe, or municipality and the agreement calls for the board to manage noxious plants thereon;
- (c) the land has an infestation of prohibited noxious

- plants and emergency action is necessary to eradicate them;
- 2 (d) the land is determined by the board to have a
  3 noxious plant infestation of a size, nature, or density that
  4 is beyond the reasonable capacity of the responsible party
  5 to manage;
  - (e) the land is determined by the board to have a noxious plant infestation that is in the best interest of the district to manage; or
- 9 (f) the responsible party does not adhere to noxious
  10 plant management standards or to a noxious plant management
  11 agreement or does not comply with an order to manage noxious
  12 plants.
- 13 (2) Before undertaking noxious plant management as
  14 provided in subsections (1)(c), (1)(d), or (1)(e), the board
  15 shall decide which of the following financial arrangements
  16 will be applicable:
- 17 (a) the board may pay the entire cost of the operation 18 from the noxious plant management fund provided for in 19 [section 18];
- 20 (b) the board and the responsible party may enter a 21 cost-sharing agreement, specifying what part of the costs 22 will be paid from the noxious plant management fund and what 23 part will be paid by the responsible party; or
- 24 (c) the board may charge the entire cost of the 25 operation, including labor, equipment operation, and

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materials, to the responsible party.

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- (3) Whenever the board implements noxious plant management as provided in subsection (1)(f), the board shall charge to the responsible party the entire cost of the operation, including labor, equipment operation, and materials, plus an additional penalty of 25% of the entire cost.
- (4) Before undertaking any noxious plant management on land controlled by any responsible party, the board shall send the responsible party a notice by certified mail, except as provided in subsection (6). The notice shall inform the responsible party:
- (a) that specified noxious plant management activities will be implemented by the board on the responsible party's land:
- (b) of the reasons for the implementation of noxious plant management by the board; and
- (c) of any costs of the noxious plant management work that will be charged to the responsible party and, if applicable, that an additional 25% penalty will be assessed.
- (5) The board may not take any action to implement noxious plant management on the responsible party's land until 15 days have passed from the sending of the notice. During this period, the responsible party may discuss the proposed noxious plant management activities with the board

- or the supervisor in an effort to reach a mutually agreeable resolution. The 15-day waiting period may be waived if the responsible party contacts the board and agrees to the implementation of noxious plant management activities by the board.
  - (6) The board may take emergency action to eradicate prohibited noxious plants on any land within the district without complying with the notice provisions of subsection (4). The board shall, however, attempt to contact the responsible party before implementing the emergency action.
- (7) Whenever the board implements noxious plant 11 management on the land of a responsible party and charges 12 the responsible party some or all of the costs, the board 13 shall submit to the responsible party a bill, including an 14 itemized account of the man-hours of labor, the materials 15 and equipment used, and any penalty assessed by the board. 16 Labor and equipment must be valued at the current rate paid 17 for commercial management operations in the district. The 18 bill shall specify a payment due date that may not be less 19 than 30 days from the date the bill is sent to the 20 responsible party. The board shall submit a copy of the bill 21 to the county clerk and recorder. The expenses for the 22 management activities must initially be paid by the board 23 from the noxious plant management fund. 24
- 25 (8) If a responsible party controlling any taxable

land does not remit full payment to the board by the due date, the county clerk and recorder shall certify the balance owed, with the legal description of all land in the district owned by the responsible party, and shall extend the amount to the assessment list of the county as a special tax on that land.

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- (9) If a responsible party controlling only tax-exempt land within the district does not remit full payment to the board by the due date, the balance owed must be recovered by direct claim against the responsible party and collected in the same manner as a personal property tax.
- 12 (10) All funds received by the board under subsections
  13 (7) through (9) must be deposited in the district noxious
  14 plant management fund.
  - NEW SECTION. Section 16. Penalties. Any person convicted of violating any provisions of [sections 1 through 21] or the orders issued thereunder or of interfering with the board, supervisor, or designated agent in the performance of his authorized duties is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not less than \$100 or more than \$1,500.
  - NEW SECTION. Section 17. Administrative and judicial review. (1) Any person adversely affected by a policy or order of the board may request an administrative hearing before the board. The board shall announce its decision on

- whether to hold a hearing within 7 days of receiving the
  request.
- 3 (2) If a hearing is held, it must occur within 30 days
  4 of the initial request. Participants testifying may be
  5 represented by legal counsel. The board shall make a record
  6 of the proceeding and enter its order and findings within 30
  7 days after the administrative hearing.
- 8 (3) If after the hearing process the person still 9 believes himself to be adversely affected by the policy or 10 order of the board, he may file a petition in district court 11 requesting that the policy or order be set aside. The court may affirm, modify, or set aside the policy or order 12 13 complained of, in whole or in part. The findings of the board with respect to questions of fact must be sustained if 14 supported by substantial evidence when considered on the 15 16 record as a whole. The court may remand the matter to the 17 board to take further testimony, and the board may modify 18 its findings and its order by reason of the additional 19 record. The board shall file any modification of the findings or order with the clerk of the court. 20
- 21 (4) If the board decides under subsection (1) not to
  22 schedule an administrative hearing, the person may file a
  23 petition in district court to obtain judicial review of the
  24 facts and the legal issues pertaining to the board policy or
  25 order at issue.

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NEW SECTION. Section 18. Noxious plant management fund. (1) The county governing body or bodies within a district shall create a noxious plant management fund by:

- (a) appropriating money from the general fund of the county;
- (b) levying a noxious plant management tax not exceeding 3 mills of total taxable valuation in the county or counties;
- (c) levying a special noxious plant management tax not exceeding 2 mills of total taxable valuation in the county or counties; the special noxious plant management tax may be levied to fund a specific noxious plant management project, a major equipment purchase, or any other special need of the district noxious plant management program; and
  - (d) any combination of the above.
- (2) All funds remaining in a noxious weed fund upon establishment of the noxious plant management fund must be deposited in the noxious plant management fund.
- (3) As provided in 77-6-114, the county treasurer shall collect as a personal property tax from all lessees of state lands within the district all assessments and taxes levied for noxious plant management by the county governing body. These assessments and taxes must be deposited into the district noxious plant management fund.
  - (4) The noxious plant management fund must be used

- solely to further the noxious plant management program of the district. Any revenues generated by the sale or application of materials, sale or rental of equipment, or assessment of charges or penalties must be deposited in the noxious plant management fund of the district and may be used during the current or any subsequent year.
- 7 (5) The board may accept any private, state, or 8 federal gifts, grants, contracts, or other funds to aid in the management of noxious plants within a district.
- 10 (6) The board may disburse funds to hire and train
  11 employees, to purchase materials and equipment, and to pay
  12 other operational costs of the noxious plant management
  13 program.
  - (7) The board shall determine what materials or equipment owned by the county may be made available for use by persons in the district in furtherance of the district noxious plant management program. The materials and equipment must be used solely for noxious plant management.
    - (8) The board may enter into financial or operational agreements to assist responsible parties in the district with a portion of the cost of managing noxious plants. Such cost-sharing may be made available throughout the district, in intensive management zones, or in any other specified areas at the discretion of the board in furtherance of the district noxious plant management program. Verified claims

filed by a responsible party cooperating with the board must be paid from the district noxious plant management fund.

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- (9) The costs of conducting a noxious plant management program on the rights-of-way of state highways must be assessed against the department of highways and must be paid from the state highway fund in compliance with 7-14-2132 and with the agreement concluded under [section 10] between the board and the department of highways.
- 9 NEW SECTION. Section 19. Citizen responsibilities.
- 10 (1) Each responsible party shall manage noxious plants on
  11 his land in accordance with the district noxious plant
  12 management standards, any noxious plant management
  13 agreement, and any order of the board applying to that land.
- 14 (2) Each person owning, controlling, occupying, or 15 leasing any land should, to the best of his ability:
  - (a) learn to identify noxious plants;
- 17 (b) survey his land for noxious plants;
- 18 (c) assist the supervisor as much as practical in
  19 carrying out the provisions and intent of [sections 1
  20 through 21]; and
- 21 (d) work for lasting reduction or elimination of 22 noxious plants.
- NEW SECTION. Section 20. Responsibilities of supervisor. The supervisor, under direction of the board, shall:

- 1 (1) conduct periodic surveys and analyses of all noxious plant populations within the district;
- 3 (2) plan, develop, implement, and coordinate a 4 long-term noxious plant management program on all land 5 within the district;
- 6 (3) consult with specialists and the public to aid in
  7 planning and developing management programs;
- 8 (4) prepare specific reports on noxious plant
  9 management programs;
- 10 (5) conduct or provide lectures, displays, meetings,
  11 and other educational activities for the public, including
  12 agricultural landowners and lessees, on the management of
  13 noxious plants;
- 14 (6) utilize integrated management techniques with the 15 goal of achieving lasting reductions in noxious plant 16 densities and maintaining environmental quality;
- 17 (7) prepare an annual written report and evaluation of 18 the noxious plant management program for the board;
- 19 (8) manage and enforce the noxious plant management
  20 program;
- 21 (9) consult and advise upon matters pertaining to the 22 best and most practical methods of noxious plant management; 23 and
- 24 (10) investigate or aid in the investigation and 25 prosecution of any violation of laws or orders pertaining to

- the noxious plant management program.
- NEW SECTION. Section 21. Role of public agencies.
- 3 (1) The department shall:
- 4 (a) assist in the development of watershed, district,
  - regional, and statewide noxious plant management plans and
- 6 programs;

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- 7 (b) assist in the development and submission of
- 8 materials to aid in the acquisition of state and federal
  - funds for noxious plant management on state and federal
- 10 lands;
- ll (c) promulgate by rule a statewide list of noxious
- 12 plants and prohibited noxious plants, following the criteria
- 13 established under subsection (4)(q);
- (d) develop, publish, distribute, and periodically
- 15 review for needed changes the list of noxious plant species
  - and prohibited noxious plant species;
- (e) develop model quarantine standards for the boards;
- 18 and

- 19 (f) aid the boards in the manner provided in 80-7-711.
- 20 (2) The cooperative extension service shall:
- 21 (a) provide appropriate training sessions to
- 22 supervisors to help them improve their expertise in the
- 23 management of noxious plant programs;
- 24 (b) provide local personnel to plan, schedule, and
- 25 carry out a variety of educational noxious plant seminars,

- workshops, clinics, and tours and to serve as nonvoting
- 2 ex officio members of the board of each district; and
- 3 (c) provide needed educational materials on the
- 4 management of noxious plants and cooperate with the boards
  - in establishing noxious plant management standards.
- 6 (3) The agricultural experiment station provided for
- 7 in 20-25-222 shall provide an up-to-date research program to
- 8 meet the needs of Montanans in solving noxious plant
- 9 management problems.
- 10 (4) The department, the cooperative extension service,
- 11 and the agricultural experiment station, in cooperation with
- 12 the boards, may:
- 13 (a) denote the presence or absence of each noxious
- 14 plant species in each district;
- 15 (b) define the noxious plant infestations in each
- 16 district, watershed, or other appropriate geographical
- 17 region of the state;
- 18 (c) determine the number of acres infested with each
- 19 noxious plant in each district;
- 20 (d) determine the economic and environmental impact of
- 21 noxious plants and disseminate this information;
- 22 (e) assist in delineating intensive management zones
- 23 and standards exemption zones;
- 24 (f) provide and distribute information, materials,
- 25 personnel, and funds available to aid in the management

programs conducted by boards and their employees;

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- (g) develop criteria for establishment of a statewide noxious plant and prohibited noxious plant list; and
- (h) provide funds and personnel, if available, to manage an emergency infestation of any noxious plant newly introduced into the state.
- Section 22. Section 7-3-4453, MCA, is amended to read:
  "7-3-4453. Assessments for snow, ice, weed, and rubbish removal. The commission shall have the power to provide by ordinance for assessing against the abutting property the cost of removing from the sidewalks all accumulation of snow and ice and for assessing against the property the cost of cutting and removing therefrom chroxious nuisance weeds and rubbish."
- 15 Section 23. Section 7-14-2131, MCA, is amended to 16 read:
  - "7-14-2131. Reseeding of right-of-way. (†) Whenever the natural sod cover on right-of-way areas is disturbed by construction of county roads, irrigation ditches, drain ditches, or otherwise, the board of county commissioners shall require the person or agency responsible for the disturbance to comply with [section 11] that-such-disturbed areas--be--seeded-to-an-adaptable--perennial--grass--or combination-of-perennial-grasses-and-legumes---Every--effort shall--be--made--to--establish--a-sod-cover-on-the-disturbed

l area.

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extension-service-"

- 3 (3)--Time-and-method-of-seeding,-fertilizing-practices,
  4 and-grass-species-shall-be-those-recommended-by-the--Montana
- 6 Section 24. Section 7-14-2132, MCA, is amended to read:
- 8 "7-14-2132. Control of weeds noxious plants along
  9 roads and highways. (1) The noxious plant management board
  10 of-weed-control--and--weed--seed--extermination--supervisors
  11 shall control noxious weeds plants on the county roads.
- 12 (2) If the department of highways does not control
  13 noxious weeds <u>plants</u> on state and federal highways in any
  14 county, the <u>supervisors board</u> shall control them. Upon
  15 presentation by the <u>supervisors board</u> of a verified account
  16 of the expenses incurred, the costs of control shall be paid
  17 by the department."
- 18 Section 25. Section 7-22-2215, MCA, is amended to read:
- 20 "7-22-2215. Rodent control board. (1) A governing body
  21 creating a rodent control district shall appoint a rodent
  22 control board composed of not less than three or more than
  23 five members. The county extension agent is an ex officio
  24 member of the board. Each member of the board must be an

elector and reside within the district.

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- (2) Board members serve 3-year staggered terms. Of the members first appointed to a board, at least one shall serve a 1-year term and at least one shall serve a 2-year term.
  - (3) Each member of the board is entitled to:

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- (a) a mileage allowance as provided in 2-18-503 for the distance actually and necessarily traveled to perform official duties; and
- 8 (b) per diem expenses established by the governing 9 body.
  - appointed under 7-22-2103 [section 6] may be appointed by the governing body to also serve as the rodent control board, in which case the qualifications, terms, compensation, mileage, and expenses of the rodent control board are the same as those of the county-weed noxious plant management board and subsections (1) through (3) do not apply."
- 18 Section 26. Section 7-22-4101, MCA, is amended to read:
- 20 "7-22-4101. Control of moxious nuisance weeds within
  21 municipality. The city or town council has power to:
- 22 (1) declare and determine what vegetation within the
  23 city or town shall be noxious nuisance weeds;
- 24 (2) provide the manner in which they shall be 25 exterminated;

- 1 (3) require the owner or owners of any property within
  2 said city or town to exterminate or remove noxious nuisance
  3 weeds from their premises and the one-half of any road or
  4 street lying next to the land or boulevard abutting thereon;
  5 and
  - (4) provide, in the event the owner or owners of any of said premises neglect to exterminate or remove the noxious nuisance weeds therefrom, for levying the cost of such extermination or removal as a special tax against the property."
- 11 Section 27. Section 70-30-314, MCA, is amended to read:
- "70-30-314. Weed--control Noxious plant management
  responsibility. The plaintiff, upon taking possession of the
  land, is responsible for the control--and--destruction
  management of noxious weeds plants on such land until
  natural--grasses--have--taken--over-the-property-and-noxious
  weeds-have-ceased-to-exist."
- 19 Section 28. Section 77-6-113, MCA, is amended to read:
  20 "77-6-113. Lease conditions -- cancellation. (1) It
  21 shall be a condition of all leases of agricultural or
  22 grazing state lands that:
- 23 (a) in the case of agricultural lands, the lessee 24 shall observe the ordinary rules for good management of 25 agricultural lands and shall handle the leased land with the

view of maintaining its productivity and minimizing wind and 1 2 soil erosion and noxious weeds plants and planting crops with a view of securing the greatest yields of good quality; and

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- (b) in the case of grazing lands, the lessee shall observe the ordinary rules for good range management and shall manipulate the numbers, class, distribution, and season of the range use and the handling, feeding, breeding, and marketing of grazing livestock with a view of securing the production of the maximum of livestock and livestock products, consistent with the conservation of the land resources and the perpetuation of its productivity, and to these ends the state land lease may not be abused by overgrazing.
- (2) For the gross violation of any of these rules, the lease involved shall be canceled by the department, subject to the appeal procedure provided in 77-6-211."
- Section 29. Section 77-6-114, MCA, is amended to read: "77-6-114. Lessee responsible for assessments taxes for weed-control noxious plant management. It shall be the duty of the board in leasing any agricultural state land to provide in such lease that the lessee of lands so leased lying within the boundaries of any noxious weed control---and---weed--seed--extermination plant management district shall assume and pay all assessments and taxes

- levied by the board of county commissioners for such
- district on such state lands, and such assessments and tax
- 3 levy shall be imposed on such lessee as a personal property
- tax and shall be collected by the county treasurer in the
- manner as regular personal property taxes are
- collected. All such state lessees shall be required under
- the terms of such lease to pay such assessment and tax levy
- at the same time and manner as other regular personal taxes
- are paid."
- 10 Section 30. Section 77-6-303, MCA, is amended to read:
- 11 "77-6-303. Determination of compensation. (1) In
- 12 determining the value of these improvements, consideration
- 13 shall be given to their original cost, their present
- 14 condition, their suitableness for the uses ordinarily made
- 15 of the lands on which they are located, and to the general
- 16 state of cultivation of the land, its productive capacity as
- 17 affected by former use, and its condition with reference to
- 18 the infestation of noxious weeds plants. Consideration shall
- 19 be given to all actual improvements and to all known effects
- 20 that the use and occupancy of the land have had upon its
- 21 productive capacity and desirableness for the new lessee.
- 22 (2) However, if any of the improvements consists of
- 23 breaking (meaning the original plowing of the land) and 1
- 24 year's crops have been raised on the land after the
- 25 breaking, the compensation for the breaking may not exceed

- \$2.50 per acre, and if two or more crops have been raised on 1 2 the land after the breaking, the breaking shall not be 3 considered as an improvement to the land."
- Section 31. Section 80-5-101, MCA, is amended to read: 4 "80-5-101. Definitions. Terms used in this part and 5 6 not otherwise identified are hereby defined:
  - (1) Agricultural seeds are the seeds of grass, forage, cereal, and fiber crops and any other kinds of seeds commonly recognized within this state as agricultural seeds and include lawn seeds and mixtures of seeds.

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- (2) Vegetable seeds include the seeds of those crops that are or may be grown in gardens or on truck farms and are or may be sold generally under the name of vegetable seeds.
- (3) Flower seeds include seeds of herbaceous plants grown for their blooms, ornamental foliage, or other ornamental parts and are commonly known and sold under the name of flower seeds in this state.
- (4) Indigenous seeds include the seeds of those plants that are naturally adapted to an area where the intended use is for revegetation of disturbed sites. These species include grasses, forbs, shrubs, and legumes.
- (5) (a) The term "weed seeds" includes the seeds or 23 bulblets of all plants generally recognized as weeds or 24 25 noxious plants within this state and includes noxious weed

seeds.

- (b) Noxious weed seeds are divided into two groups 2 defined as follows:
- (i) "Prohibited noxious weed seeds" are the seeds of 4 perennial and other serious weeds that not only reproduce by 5 seed but also may spread by underground roots, stems, and other reproductive parts and which, when well established, 7 are highly destructive and difficult to control in this state by ordinary good cultural practice. Prohibited noxious 9 weed seeds include the seeds of:
- 11 Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense) (Euphorbia esula) 12 leafy spurge 13 hoary cress (Cardaria draba) (Agropyron repens) 14 quackgrass Russian knapweed (Centaurea repens) 15 perennial sowthistle (Sonchus arvensis) 16 field bindweed (Convolvulus arvensis) 17 dalmatian toadflax (Linaria dalmatica) 18 19 halogeton (Halogeton glomeratus) 20 medusa-head wildrye (Elvmus caput-medusae) (Campanula rapunculoides) 21 creeping bellflower yellow toadflax (Linaria vulgaris) 22
- (ii) "Restricted noxious weed seeds" are the seeds of 23 weeds that are very objectionable in fields, lawns, and 24 gardens of this state but can be controlled by good cultural 25

- practices. Restricted noxious weed seeds include the seeds

  dodder (Cuscuta spp.)

  blue lettuce (Lactuca pulchella)
- 5 St.-Johnswort (Hypericum perforatum)
- 6 oxeye daisy (Chrysanthemum leucanthemum)
  7 spotted knapweed (Centaurea maculosa)
- 7 spotted knapweed (Centaurea maculosa 8 hoary alyssum (Berteroa incana)
- 9 wild oats (Avena fatua)
- 10 buckhorn plantain (Plantago lanceolata)
- chickweed (Stellaria spp.)
- 12 curly dock (Rumex crispus)
- 13 (6) The term "hybrid" applied to kinds of varieties of 14 seed means the first generation seed of a cross produced by 15 controlling the pollination and by combining:
- 16 (a) two or more inbred lines;
- 17 (b) one inbred or a single cross with an open 18 pollinated variety; or
- 19 (c) two or more selected clones, seed lines,
  20 varieties, or species.
- 21 (7) "Controlling the pollination" means to use a 22 method hybridization which will produce pure seed which is 23 at least 75% hybrid seed. Hybrid designations shall be 24 treated as variety names.
- 25 (8) The terms "approximate percentage" and

- "approximate number" mean the percentage or number with the
  variations above or below as allowed according to the
  tolerance limits defined in the "rules for seed testing"
  adopted by the association of official seed analysts.
- 5 (9) The term "percentage of germination" means the
  6 percentage of seeds which show normal sprouts as evidence of
  7 vitality when the seeds are subjected to the proper moisture
  8 and temperature conditions with proper aeration for the
  9 customary length of time for each specific kind of seed, as
  10 specified in the "rules for seed testing" adopted by the
  11 association of official seed analysts.
- 12 (10) The term "percentage viability" refers to the 13 percentage of live seed capable of producing a normal 14 seedling under optimum growing conditions, after all forms 15 of dormancy have been overcome, if present.
- 16 (11) The term "name of state in which the seed was 17 grown" means any of the several states of the United States 18 or the foreign country.
- 19 (12) The term "labeling" means to affix, before 20 offering the seed for sale, in a conspicuous place on the 21 exterior of the container a written or printed label, in the 22 English language, giving the required information.
- 23 (13) The term "other crop seeds" means any 24 agricultural, vegetable, or flower seeds other than the seed 25 or the mixture of seeds under consideration.

- 1 (14) The term "sell" includes "offer for sale", "expose
  2 for sale", "have in possession for sale", "exchange",
  3 "barter", or "trade". It also includes agricultural seeds
  4 that are furnished to growers for the production of a crop
  5 on contract.
- 6 (15) The term "certifying agency" means:

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- (a) an agency authorized under the laws of a state, territory, or possession to officially certify seed and which has standards and procedures to assure the genetic purity and identity of the seed certified; or
- (b) an agency of a foreign country determined by the department to adhere to procedures and standards for seed certification comparable to those adhered to generally by seed certifying agencies under subsection (15)(a) of this section.
- (16) The term "protected variety" means a variety for which a certificate has been issued by the U.S. plant variety protection office or for which an application for protection has been filed granting the owner or his authorized agent exclusive rights in the sale and distribution of the variety."
- 22 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Section 32. Repealer. Sections 7-22-2101 23 through 7-22-2108, 7-22-2121 through 7-22-2127, and 24 7-22-2141 through 7-22-2150, MCA, are repealed.
- 25 NEW SECTION. Section 33. Severability. If a part of

- this act is invalid, all valid parts that are severable from
- 2 the invalid part remain in effect. If a part of this act is
- 3 invalid in one or more of its applications, the part remains
- 4 in effect in all valid applications that are severable from
- 5 the invalid applications.
- 6 NEW SECTION. Section 34. Effective date. This act is
- 7 effective July 1, 1985.

-End-

#### STATE OF MONTANA

#### FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST NO. FNN-336-85

Form BD-15

In compliance with a written request received February 5, 19 85 , there is hereby submitted a pursuant to Title 5, Chapter 4, Part 2 of the Montana Code Annotated (MCA). Fiscal Note for H.B. 659 Background information used in developing this Fiscal Note is available from the Office of Budget and Program Planning, to members of the Legislature upon request.

### DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

The bill establishes the Noxious Plant Management Act and generally revises the laws relating to county weed control.

# ASSUMPTIONS:

- This bill has no increased fiscal impact on the Departments of Lands, Highways, Fish Wildlife and Parks, Health and Environmental Sciences, and Livestock.
- Counties increase the mill levies to the maximum permitted by the bill. The actual FY 84 levy totalled \$2,087,129 to contain noxious weeds.
- The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation has 10,500 acres of land of which 75% requires 3) control efforts at \$40.00 per acre.
- The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation has no previous weed control expenditures and all properties contracted to local water users are the Department's responsibility for weed control.
- The Department of Agriculture will write five pages of rules, hold two rule hearings and have two mailings to each county annually.
- Weed control on the Department of Institutions' leased property is the responsibility of private individuals. 6)

Section 21, (4) is permissive, therefore, cost increases to the Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service will be minimal. If the provision is made mandatory, there is a significant impact on expenditures for the University System.

BUDGET DIRECTOR

Office of Budget and Program Planning

Date: Fall

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### FISCAL IMPACT:

	<u>FY 86</u>	<u>FY 87</u>
Expenditures:		
Personal Services	\$ <b>-</b> 0-	\$ -0-
Weed Control Supplies	340,927	339,902
Total Cost Increases	\$ 340,927	\$339,902
General Fund	\$ 335,927	\$ 334,902
Proprietary Fund	5,000	5,000
	\$ 340,927	\$ 339,902

# AFFECT ON COUNTY:

If all counties increase the weed control mill levies to the maximum permitted by the bill, revenues will increase from the 1984 levy total of \$2,087,129 to \$11,654,413. Property taxes will rise accordingly.

## LONG-RANGE EFFECTS:

Weed control efforts will have to be maintained over the long term.

## TECHNICAL NOTES:

None