

HOUSE BILL NO. 195

INTRODUCED BY P. INGRAHAM

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CLASSIFYING CERTAIN PARCELS OF GROWING TIMBER AS CLASS TEN PROPERTY FOR PROPERTY TAX PURPOSES; AND AMENDING SECTION 15-6-143, MCA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1.** Section 15-6-143, MCA, is amended to read:

**"15-6-143. Class ten property -- description -- taxable percentage.** (1) Class ten property includes all forest lands, as defined in 15-44-102, and property described in subsection (2).

(2) Contiguous parcels of growing timber totaling less than 15 acres qualify as class ten property if the following conditions are met:

(a) the parcel or parcels previously qualified as forest land;

(b) a portion of the parcel or parcels was taken or given without compensation or sold for a public use, as described in 70-30-102, to the federal government, the state, or a municipality and that action reduced the number of acres in the parcel or parcels to less than 15 acres; and

(c) since the reduction in acreage occurred, the parcel or parcels have not been further divided or devoted to a residential, commercial, or industrial use and there are no covenants or other restrictions that effectively prohibit use of the property as forest land.

~~(2)~~(3) Class ten property is taxed at:

(a) for tax year 2009, 0.34% of its forest productivity value;

(b) for tax year 2010, 0.33% of its forest productivity value;

(c) for tax year 2011, 0.32% of its forest productivity value;

(d) for tax year 2012, 0.31% of its forest productivity value;

(e) for tax year 2013, 0.3% of its forest productivity value; and

(f) for tax years after 2013, 0.29% of its forest productivity value."

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