



State of Wisconsin  
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

LRB-3636/1  
ZDW:klm

## 2015 SENATE BILL 655

February 1, 2016 – Introduced by Senators BEWLEY and MILLER, cosponsored by Representatives MILROY, DANOU, BERCEAU, T. LARSON, OHNSTAD, A. OTT, CONSIDINE and WACHS. Referred to Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.

1     **AN ACT** *to amend* 26.14 (9) (b); and *to create* 26.14 (9) (c) of the statutes;  
2     **relating to:** reimbursement of expenses for suppressing a forest fire.

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***Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau***

This bill requires that damages recovered from a person liable for a forest fire be paid in equal proportion to the state and to the county in which fire suppression services were performed. Under current law, the costs of suppressing a forest fire are shared in equal proportion by the state and the county.

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***The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:***

3     **SECTION 1.** 26.14 (9) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:  
4     26.14 (9) (b) Any person who sets a fire on any land and allows such fire to  
5     escape and become a forest fire shall be liable for all expenses incurred in the  
6     suppression of the fire ~~by the state or town in which the fire occurred~~ under sub. (3).  
7     An action under this paragraph shall be commenced within the time provided by s.  
8     893.91 or be barred.

**SENATE BILL 655**

1            **SECTION 2.** 26.14 (9) (c) of the statutes is created to read:  
2            26.14 **(9)** (c) A court that issues an order in an action under par. (b) shall provide  
3            in the order that damages be paid in equal proportion to the state and to the county  
4            in which fire suppression services were performed.

5    **(END)**