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

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.

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

SECTION 1. 26.14 (9) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

26.14 (9) (b) Any person who sets a fire on any land and allows such fire to escape and become a forest fire shall be liable for all expenses incurred in the suppression of the fire by the state or town in which the fire occurred under sub. (3).

An action under this paragraph shall be commenced within the time provided by s. 893.91 or be barred.
SECTION 2. 26.14 (9) (c) of the statutes is created to read:

26.14 (9) (c) A court that issues an order in an action under par. (b) shall provide in the order that damages be paid in equal proportion to the state and to the county in which fire suppression services were performed.

(END)