

HB 1646 -- BRUSH CONTROL ADJACENT TO ROADS

SPONSOR: Eggleston

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Local Government by a vote of 8 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Administrative Oversight Committee by a vote of 13 to 0.

This bill states that one purpose of the brush control law is to prevent brush from interfering with vehicles traveling on the road. If the county is required to take action to control the brush because the owner fails to do so, the county will extend the costs as a special tax due on the landowner's real and personal property tax assessment and collected in the same manner as state and county taxes.

Notice that must be provided to the landowner of these requirements can be given in writing using any mail service with delivery tracking.

The county right-of-way or county maintenance easement will be deemed to extend 15 feet from the center of the county road or at a distance set forth in the original conveyance. The center of the road will be a point equidistant from both edges of the drivable ground of the road in its current condition.

In the event a county is required to obtain a land survey to enforce these provisions, the costs of the survey will be divided equally between the county and the land owner.

This bill is similar to SB 657 (2018).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this is a safety issue, especially when the gravel and dirt roads are already narrow.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Andrews, on behalf of Representative Eggleston.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.