

House _____ Amendment NO. _____

Offered By _____

1 AMEND House Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 468, Page 82, Section 578.700, Line 31,
2 by inserting after all of said section and line the following:

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4 "537.340. 1. If any person shall cut down, injure or destroy or carry away any tree placed or
5 growing for use, shade or ornament, or any timber, rails or wood standing, being or growing on the
6 land of any other person, including any governmental entity, or shall dig up, quarry or carry away
7 any stones, ore or mineral, gravel, clay or mold, or any ice or other substance or material being a
8 part of the realty, or any roots, fruits or plants, or cut down or carry away grass, grain, corn, flax or
9 hemp in which such person has no interest or right, standing, lying or being on land not such
10 person's own, or shall knowingly break the glass or any part of it in any building not such person's
11 own, the person so offending shall pay to the party injured treble the value of the things so injured,
12 broken, destroyed or carried away, with costs. Any person filing a claim for damages pursuant to
13 this section need not prove negligence or intent.

14 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 1 of this section, the following rules shall
15 apply to the trimming, removing, and controlling of trees and other vegetation by any electric
16 supplier:

17 (1) Every electric supplier that operates electric transmission or distribution lines shall have
18 the authority to maintain the same by trimming, removing, and controlling trees and other
19 vegetation posing a hazard to the continued safe and reliable operation thereof;

20 (2) An electric supplier may exercise its authority under subdivision (1) of this subsection if
21 the trees and other vegetation are within the legal description of any recorded easement or, in the
22 absence of a recorded easement, the following:

23 (a) Within ten feet, plus one-half the length of any attached cross arm, of either side of the
24 centerline of electricity lines potentially energized at or below 34.5 kilovolts measured line to line
25 and located within the limits of any city; or

26 (b) Within thirty feet of either side of the centerline of electricity lines potentially energized
27 at or below 34.5 kilovolts measured line to line and located outside the limits of any city; or

28 (c) Within fifty feet of either side of the centerline of electricity lines potentially energized
29 between 34.5 and one hundred kilovolts measured line to line; or

30 (d) Within the greater of the following for any electricity lines potentially energized at one
31 hundred kilovolts or more measured line to line:

32 a. Seventy-five feet to either side of the centerline; or

33 b. Any required clearance distance adopted by either the Federal Energy Regulatory
34 Commission or an Electric Reliability Organization authorized by the Energy Policy Act of 2005, 16
35 U.S.C. Section 824o. Such exercise shall be considered reasonable and necessary for the proper and
36 reliable operation of electric service and shall create a rebuttable presumption, in claims for property

Action Taken _____ Date _____

1 damage, that the electric supplier acted with reasonable care, operated within its rights regarding the
2 operation and maintenance of its electricity lines, and has not committed a trespass;

3 (3) An electric supplier may trim, remove, and control trees and other vegetation outside the
4 provisions in subdivision (2) of this subsection if such actions are necessary to maintain the
5 continued safe and reliable operation of its electric lines;

6 (4) An electric supplier may secure from the owner or occupier of land greater authority to
7 trim, remove, and control trees and other vegetation than the provisions set forth in subdivision (2)
8 of this subsection and may exercise any and all rights regarding the trimming, removing, and
9 controlling of trees and other vegetation granted in any easement held by the electric supplier;

10 (5) An electric supplier may trim or remove any tree of sufficient height outside the
11 provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection when such tree, if it were to fall, would threaten the
12 integrity and safety of any electric transmission or distribution line and would pose a hazard to the
13 continued safe and reliable operation thereof;

14 (6) Prior to the removal of any tree under the provisions of subdivision (5) of this
15 subsection, an electric supplier shall notify the owner or occupier of land, if available, at least
16 fourteen days prior to such removal unless either the electric supplier deems the removal to be
17 immediately necessary to continue the safe and reliable operation of its electricity lines, or the
18 electric supplier is trimming or removing trees and other vegetation following a major weather event
19 or other emergency situation;

20 (7) If any tree which is partially trimmed by an electric supplier dies within three months as
21 a result of said trimming, the owner or occupier of land upon which the tree was trimmed may
22 request in writing that the electric supplier remove said tree at the electric supplier's expense. The
23 electric supplier shall respond to such request within ninety days;

24 (8) Nothing in this subsection shall be interpreted as requiring any electric supplier to fully
25 exercise the authorities granted in this subsection.

26 3. For purposes of this section, the term "electric supplier" means any rural electric
27 cooperative that is subject to the provisions of chapter 394~~], and~~; any electrical corporation which
28 is required by its bylaws to operate on the not-for-profit cooperative business plan, with its
29 consumers who receive service as the stockholders of such corporation, and which holds a
30 certificate of public convenience and necessity to serve a majority of its customer-owners in
31 counties of the third classification as of August 28, 2003; any municipally owned or operated
32 electric power system that is subject to the provisions of chapter 91; and any municipally owned
33 utility whose service area is set by state statute, service agreement, or other authority to include
34 areas which are not incorporated into city limits."; and

35
36 Further amend said bill by amending the title, enacting clause, and intersectional references
37 accordingly.