

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Atkinson, Bates, Beyer, Prozanski, Avakian
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Sue Marshall, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Adds research to the purposes of the state forest tree seed bank. Provides specific authority for the State Forester and the State Board of Forestry to operate the State Forest Tree Seed Orchard. Establishes purposes of the orchard. Establishes sub accounts for the State Forest Nursery, the State Forest Tree Seed Bank, and the State Forest Tree Seed Orchard.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History and uses of the State Tree Seed Bank
- Merits of creating an independent authority for the Seed Orchard
- Authority of Forest Tree Seed Bank to enter into long term investments

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: A State Forest Seed Orchard was established in 1971 as a cooperative, cost-sharing project between the state and private forest landowners. The Orchard produces high-quality forest tree seed that is grown in forest nurseries to produce seedlings for reforestation. The seedlings are used on state-owned forests, private industrial forests, and family forests. The State Forest Seed Bank makes available a variety of tree seed, including seed produced by the seed orchard, to family forest landowners, their organizations, and nurseries growing seedlings for them. House Bill 2069-A authorizes the State Forester to make the multi-year investments necessary to produce the desired seed.