

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Rescind the Subsequent Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means
Vote:	7 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Boquist, Clem, Dingfelder, Macpherson, Maurer, Smith P., Roblan
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Beth Patrino, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	1/30, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Modifies the Forest Resource Program Trust statutes. Establishes a voluntary cost share program and outlines purpose of program. Establishes a voluntary loan program to finance stands of trees and improved management of qualified private and local government forestlands. Outlines the priorities and structure of the loan program. Requires Department of Forestry to educate and provide technical assistance to landowners regarding Forest Resource Trust Program. Repeals current statute on contracts between State Forester and landowners.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Work group discussion addressing environmental/ecosystems services
- Reporting to the Legislative Assembly
- Importance of issue at national level
- Budget impact is decreased through a more efficient process
- How work will be distributed among various steward foresters across state

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Deletes the environmental/ecosystem services program from the Forest Resource Trust. Reorganizes language in bill for clarity. Requires a report to the 2011 Legislative Assembly.

BACKGROUND: The Forest Resource Trust program was created in 1993 to assist landowners in establishing and maintaining healthy forests on underproducing forestlands. Use of the trust has been minimal since its inception. The amendments to HB 2293 are the product of a work group convened after the first hearing on January 30, 2007. The amendments remove the environmental services/ecosystem services program from the Forest Resource Trust and reorganize language in the bill for clarity. HB 2293-A modifies the Forest Resource Trust Program statutes to provide financial and technical assistance to forest landowners for stand establishment and improved forestland management.