

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

**FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued**

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
<b>Vote:</b>	3 - 0 - 2
<b>Yeas:</b>	Atkinson, Bates, Beyer
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	Prozanski, Avakian
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Sue Marshall, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	5/01

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Modifies statute related to the Forest Resource Program Trust. Establishes and outlines purpose for a voluntary cost share 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:**

- Purpose of Forest Resource Trust Program
- Under-utilization of the program and need for modifications
- How the current loan program works
- Cost share option that benefits landowners and ecosystems services

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** The Forest Resource Program Trust was created in 1993 to assist landowners in establishing and maintaining healthy forests on under-producing forestlands. Use of the trust has been minimal since its inception. House Bill 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.