

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Hass, Olsen, Prozanski, Thomsen, Dingfelder
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Beth Patrino, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes that State Forester shall serve as Governor's authorized representative for purpose of initiating fire management assistance declaration process with Federal Emergency Management Agency and administer Federal Emergency Management Agency Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAG).

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Over past 10 years, 22 fires have been eligible for FMAG, totaling \$38 million in suppression cost recovery
- Department of Forestry has performed these duties without clear legislative authority since 2001

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Director of the Office of Emergency Management currently serves as the Governor's authorized representative for coordination of certain response activities and managing recovery processes. The Governor's authorized representative is primarily a requirement for execution of federal disaster assistance funds, regardless of their nature. House Bill 2073 would designate the State Forester as the Governor's representative.