

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Hass, Olsen, Prozanski, Thomsen, Dingfelder

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Beth Patrino, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 4/5, 4/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes Department of Forestry (ODF) to enter into contracts to supply woody biomass from state forestlands as needed to facilitate development of projects, including bioenergy projects. Defines “biomass” and “woody biomass.” Directs State Forester to assess types of woody biomass available and serve as information resource for persons seeking to use woody biomass for energy development. Requires periodic report on biomass data. Adds removal of woody biomass to definition of “forest practice.”

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Biomass use, forest health restoration and economic development issues
- Change to require Department to report periodically to legislative committees on biomass data
- Including biomass removal on statutory list of forest practices

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND: Woody biomass is material from trees and woody plants that is a by-product of other activities such as timber harvesting or fuel reduction. Woody biomass is used in recycled wood materials or converted into biofuels to provide a source of renewable energy. Senate Bill 862 A would authorize the State Forester to enter into contracts to provide a supply of woody biomass from forestlands managed by ODF to facilitate the development of projects, including but not limited to bio-energy projects.