

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/16/15

Action: Do Pass With Amendments. Refer To Ways And Means By Prior Reference
(Printed A-Eng).

Meeting Dates: 04/13, 04/16

Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Dembrow, Edwards, Olsen, Prozanski, Thomsen

Prepared By: Beth Reiley, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes 9 to 15 member Task Force on Funding State Natural Resources Agencies (Task Force). Requires Task Force to identify funding options that would provide stable and sustainable funding for proper functioning of state natural resource agencies. Requires Task Force as part of identification process to consider certain factors. Directs Task Force to report to Governor or committee of Legislative Assembly related to natural resources not later than February 1, 2016. Sunsets Task Force December 31, 2016. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Strategies to make natural resource agencies budgets sustainable
- Role of General Fund dollars in funding natural resource agencies
- Desire to diversify funding stream

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Requires Task Force on Funding State Natural Resources Agencies (Task Force) to identify funding that would provide stable and sustainable funding for proper functioning of state natural resource agencies. Requires Task Force as part of identification process to consider certain factors.

BACKGROUND:

Natural resource agencies are largely funded with Other Funds revenues, generated through fee assessments and other regulatory actions, and Federal Funds. These revenues tend to have restricted uses; typically their use is limited to funding regulatory activities, grants, or federally delegated programs. General and Lottery Funds supplement other sources and fund constitutionally dedicated programs.

Senate Bill 952A would establish the Task Force on Funding State Natural Resources Agencies (Task Force) for the purpose of identifying funding options that would provide stable and sustainable funding for state natural resource agencies. The Act would require that the Task Force report to the Governor or the Legislature no later than February 1, 2016.