

HB 4168
Relating to forestry

HB 4168 requires the Governor to hold mediation sessions between representatives of the forest industry and environmental interests, in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding announced by the Governor on February 10th, 2020. The estimated costs of these mediation sessions are \$175,000 General Fund in 2019-21 and \$75,000 General Fund in 2021-23.

This measure also requires the Department of Forestry to provide notifications if there will be an application of pesticides by helicopter on forestland near a person's residence or water intake. This bill further limits pesticide applications by helicopter near inhabited dwellings, schools, and certain bodies of water.

The total cost of implementing this measure for the Department of Forestry is estimated at \$894,317 General Fund and \$103,545 Other Funds in 2019-21. Approximately \$739,000 General Fund will be used to update the agency's existing Forest Activity Electronic Reporting and Notification System, to enable this system to support the pesticide application notification requirements of this measure. The agency will hire a limited duration full-time Project Manager 3 and a permanent full-time Operations and Policy Analyst 2 to implement this measure, totaling 1.26 FTE in 2019-21.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends HB 4168 be amended by the –A6 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.