

## **SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

### **Item 35: Department of Forestry 2021 Fire Season**

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To: Ways and Means Full Committee  
From: Natural Resources Subcommittee  
Carrier: Senator Taylor

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The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means recommend including an increase of \$6,146,267 General Fund and a corresponding decrease in the special purpose appropriation made to the Emergency Board for severity resources; a General Fund increase of \$40,152,202 for the state's portion of large-fire costs related to the 2021 fire season; and an increase of \$78,218,491 in the Other Funds expenditure limitation for the Department of Forestry in a budget reconciliation bill during the 2022 legislative session to enable processing payments of costs from the 2021 fire season.

Gross fire costs for the 2021 season are reported at \$129.17 million. After subtracting anticipated Federal Emergency Management Agency grants of \$25.6 million, anticipated federal agency cost reimbursements of \$33.4 million, and local fire district cost-shares of \$1.08 million, net emergency fire costs to the state are \$69.09 million. In addition to this amount, the net cost of severity resources totaled \$9,146,267. The recommended funding provides for the General Fund portion of these costs and Other Funds expenditure limitation to process payments from other state and federal sources.

The Subcommittee recommends approval.