



## 2015 ASSEMBLY BILL 559

December 2, 2015 – Introduced by Representative CZAJA. Referred to Committee on Environment and Forestry.

1     **AN ACT to repeal** 77.83 (2) (am) and 77.83 (4) (b); **to renumber** 77.83 (4) (a); and  
2             **to create** 77.83 (2) (ar) of the statutes; **relating to:** eliminating the restriction  
3             on leasing managed forest land.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

This bill eliminates the restriction on leasing land designated as Managed Forest Land (MFL) to permit persons to engage in a recreational activity and authorizes the owner of closed MFL to enter into a lease or other agreement permitting persons to engage in recreational activity on the land.

Under the MFL program administered by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the owner of a parcel of land designated as MFL makes an annual acreage share payment that is lower than, and in lieu of, the property taxes that normally would be payable on the land. In exchange, the owner must comply with certain forestry practices. Under the program, MFL is designated as either “open” or “closed” to public access. MFL that is designated as “open” must be kept open for hunting, fishing, hiking, sight-seeing, and cross-country skiing (recreational activities). For MFL that is designated as “closed” the owner must make an additional payment per acre.

Under current law, the owner of land designated as MFL may not enter into a lease or other agreement for consideration if the purpose of the lease or agreement is to permit persons to engage in a recreational activity. This bill eliminates this restriction and authorizes the owner of MFL that is designated as closed to enter into

