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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2003-04

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on Forestry...

## COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

## INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)  
(**ab** = Assembly Bill)                      (**ar** = Assembly Resolution)                      (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)  
(**sb** = Senate Bill)                              (**sr** = Senate Resolution)                      (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

\* Contents organized for archiving by: Stefanie Rose (LRB) (July 2013)

## Assembly

## Record of Committee Proceedings

### Committee on Forestry

#### Assembly Bill 12

Relating to: educational requirements for foresters employed by the Department of Natural Resources and persons authorized to designate trees for cutting in state forests.

By Representatives Friske, Ainsworth, Seratti, M. Williams, Vrakas, Freese, Ott, Loeffelholz, Hahn, Bies, Krawczyk, Owens, Jeskewitz, Powers, M. Lehman, J. Wood, Albers, Petrowski, Jensen and Black; cosponsored by Senators Kedzie, Breske, Welch, Schultz and Hansen.

January 30, 2003      Referred to Committee on Forestry.

February 11, 2003      **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present:    (5)      Representatives Friske, Ainsworth, Seratti, M. Williams and Boyle.

Absent:     (1)      Representative Hubler.

#### Appearances For

- State Representative Donald Friske (35<sup>th</sup>)
- Paul Delong – Chief State Forester – Department of Natural Resources
- Colette Matthews – Wisconsin County Forests Association
- Allan Waelchli – Wisconsin Consulting Foresters
- Eugene Roark – Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association
- Mary Stewart – Wisconsin Science Professionals / State Employees Union

#### Appearances Against

- None.

#### Appearances for Information Only

- None.

#### Registrations For

- Gene Francisco – Retired State Forester
- State Senator Neil Kedzie (11<sup>th</sup>)
- Gunnar Bergersen – Timber Producers Association / Lake States Lumber
- Cory Mason – Wisconsin Federation of Teachers

Registrations Against

- None.

February 11, 2003

**EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD**

Present: (5) Representatives Friske, Ainsworth, Seratti, M. Williams and Boyle.  
Absent: (1) Representative Hubler.

Moved by Representative Friske, seconded by Representative Seratti that **Assembly Amendment 1** be recommended for introduction and adoption.


Ayes: (5) Representatives Friske, Ainsworth, Seratti, M. Williams and Boyle.  
Noes: (0) None.  
Absent: (1) Representative Hubler.

**INTRODUCTION AND ADOPTION OF ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1 RECOMMENDED, Ayes 5, Noes 0**

Moved by Representative Ainsworth, seconded by Representative M. Williams that **Assembly Bill 12** be recommended for passage as amended.

Ayes: (5) Representatives Friske, Ainsworth, Seratti, M. Williams and Boyle.  
Noes: (0) None.  
Absent: (1) Representative Hubler.

**PASSAGE AS AMENDED RECOMMENDED, Ayes 5, Noes 0**

  
Tim Gary  
Committee Clerk

**Vote Record**

**Committee on Forestry**

Date: 2-11-03

Moved by: Rep. Friske

Seconded by: Rep. Seratti

AB 12 SB \_\_\_\_\_ Clearinghouse Rule \_\_\_\_\_  
 AJR \_\_\_\_\_ SJR \_\_\_\_\_ Appointment \_\_\_\_\_  
 AR \_\_\_\_\_ SR \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Amdt 1  
 A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

Be recommended for:  
 Passage     Adoption     Confirmation     Concurrence     Indefinite Postponement  
 Introduction     Rejection     Tabling     Nonconcurrence

Committee Member

**Representative Donald Friske**  
**Representative John Ainsworth**  
**Representative Lorraine Seratti**  
**Representative Mary Williams**  
**Representative Mary Hubler**  
**Representative Frank Boyle**

<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>

Totals:

## Vote Record

### Committee on Forestry

Date: 2-11-03

Moved by: Rep. Ainsworth

Seconded by: Rep. Williams

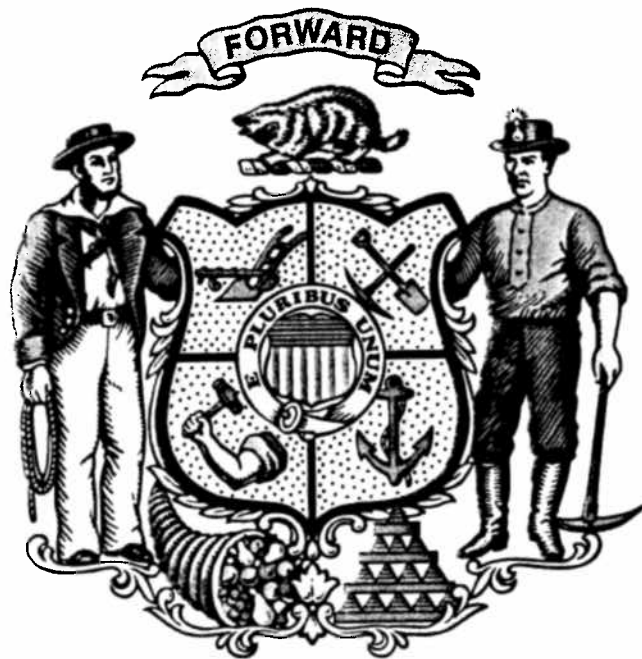
AB 12 SB \_\_\_\_\_ Clearinghouse Rule \_\_\_\_\_  
 AJR \_\_\_\_\_ SJR \_\_\_\_\_ Appointment \_\_\_\_\_  
 AR \_\_\_\_\_ SR \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

Be recommended for:

- Passage     Adoption     Confirmation     Concurrence     Indefinite Postponement  
 Introduction     Rejection     Tabling     Nonconcurrence

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
<b>Representative Donald Friske</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Representative John Ainsworth</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Representative Lorraine Seratti</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Representative Mary Williams</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Representative Mary Hubler</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Representative Frank Boyle</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Totals:</b>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>





Wisconsin Society of American Foresters

February 7, 2003

Chairman Donald R Friske  
Assembly Forestry Committee  
312 North Capitol  
PO Box 8952  
Madison, WI 53708-8952

Dear Representative Friske:

The Wisconsin Chapter of the Society of American Foresters supports AB 12 relating to proposed educational requirements for foresters employed by the Department of Natural Resources. This legislation would standardize the requirements for foresters employed by or contracting with the Department to provide services for private forest landowners. At present, administrative codes NR1.21 (2) (e) and NR47.70 (2) (e) require that county forest administrators and cooperating private forestry consultants contracting with the Department hold a bachelor's degree or higher from a university of college with a curriculum accredited by the Society of American Foresters. However, the Department of Natural Resources is prohibited by Wisconsin Statutes section 230.14 (3m) from applying the same requirements for their own foresters because forestry in Wisconsin is not a 'licensed profession.'

We support the proposition that professional foresters are best qualified to make recommendations regarding forest resources management. The public expects Department foresters, or those working as foresters on behalf of the Department, to possess the skills and training needed to make recommendations regarding the long-term health and productivity of Wisconsin's forest resources. This legislation would ensure that management services and recommendations provided on behalf of the Department meet the public's expectations for sound forestry advice and guidance from a staff of professional resource managers.

The Society of American Foresters accredits schools of forestry using self-assessments and on-site reviews by panels of experts to document that students receive an up-to-date and rigorous education. This process ensures that graduates from accredited schools are competent and well trained and that employers can place great confidence in their professional judgement. While graduates of other programs or self-taught individuals may share some technical skills with professional

*Thank you for Supporting the Society of American Foresters*

February 10, 2003

Page 2

foresters, very few will have acquired the range of skills and sense of ethics that guide foresters in their daily work.

We note that as least 10 colleges or universities in Wisconsin or nearby states offer degrees in forest resources management accredited by the Society of American Foresters. These schools provide an excellent pool of potential employees from which the Department could draw in hiring new foresters. Thus, we do not believe this legislation will pose a hardship to the Department in terms of finding well-qualified applicants. In fact, we believe this requirement would enhance the professional reputation of the Department's forestry staff.

The Wisconsin chapter of the Society of American Foresters represents more than 500 professional foresters helping to manage more than 15 million acres of Wisconsin's forestlands. Your sponsorship of this important legislation indicates that you also value Wisconsin's forest resources. If I can provide further information, please call me at 608-262-0449.

Sincerely,

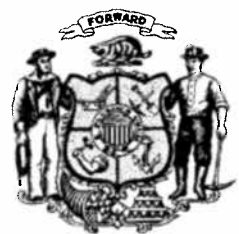
Raymond P. Guries  
Professor of Forestry, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and  
Chair, Policy and Legislation Committee, WI Chapter, SAF

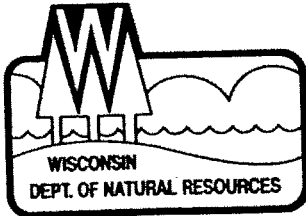
cc P. DeLong, Div. of Forestry Administrator  
R. Rogers, State Chair, Society of American Foresters





WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





**State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

Jim Doyle, Governor  
Scott Hassett, Secretary

101 S. Webster St.  
Box 7921  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921  
Telephone 608-266-2621  
FAX 608-267-3579  
TTY 608-267-6897

**Assembly Bill 12**

Assembly Committee on Forestry

Department of Natural Resources Testimony  
Paul DeLong, Administrator  
Division of Forestry  
February 11, 2003

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

Good afternoon. My name is Paul DeLong and I am the Administrator of the Department of Natural Resources' Division of Forestry and Wisconsin's Chief State Forester. I appreciate this opportunity to appear before you to discuss AB 12.

The Department of Natural Resources supports the intent of AB 12. The bill requires future foresters hired by DNR to have received a bachelor's or higher degree in forestry from a school of forestry with a curriculum accredited by the Society of American Foresters or an equivalent degree from a school located in another country. The bill also requires that on state forests, marking of timber must be done either by a DNR forester or an individual who DNR determines to be qualified and who is under the supervision of a DNR forester.

This bill is the outgrowth of concerns expressed within the forestry community that a double standard exists with respect to the requirements for hiring foresters by the Department of Natural Resources and by partner organizations. This bill is designed to create consistency and ensure that there is public confidence in Department foresters.

State agency hiring is governed by Wisconsin Statutes (Section 230.14) which prohibits state agencies from requiring a college degree as a condition of application unless the statutes require a license to practice a profession and a degree is a condition of the license. Forestry is not a licensed profession in Wisconsin and therefore the DNR cannot require applicants for forester positions to hold a college degree in forestry.

However, DNR administrative codes NR 1.21(2)(e) and NR 47.70(2)(e) require that Cooperating Consultant Foresters entering into agreements with the department and County Forest Administrators funded by the County Forest Administrator Grant program must hold a bachelor of science degree or greater in forestry from a university or college with a curriculum accredited by the Society of American Foresters.

The rationale for the difference has been that the degree requirement is the most efficient way to ensure that qualified foresters serve in the capacity of County Forest Administrator or Cooperating Consulting Forester.

In the case of the Department, foresters are hired through a very competitive process and spend 18 months on probation, including 12 months of intensive training and mentoring by

senior foresters with the Department. The Department ensures that our foresters are qualified to do the job they are hired for. The Department's support for this legislation should not be interpreted as a belief that we have foresters in our employment who, because they do not have a four-year degree in forestry, are unable to perform their jobs in a satisfactory manner. I believe we have an excellent cadre of foresters who work hard to provide professional service to the people of Wisconsin.

Rather, the Department's support for the legislation is based on the fact that it will address the appearance of a double standard and put us on more solid ground when we take issue with individuals who call themselves "consulting foresters" but who in reality do not have the necessary background or training to perform the functions of a forester. Although these individuals can not become Cooperating Consulting Foresters under NR 1.21, there is nothing that prohibits them from hanging out a shingle and calling themselves a "consulting forester". The Department, along with many of our partners in the forestry community, strongly condemn this practice and the adverse impact it has on private landowners who are taken advantage of by individuals who mislead them with respect to their credentials.

The DNR is a leader in promoting professional excellence in the forestry profession in Wisconsin and in advocating that private landowners obtain professional assistance when managing their forest land. Unfortunately, the current situation has created a perception that the Department holds itself to one standard, as required by current law, and that others are held to a different standard. AB 12 will eliminate this perception.

There are a sufficient number of quality graduates from schools accredited by the Society of American Foresters in Wisconsin, the Midwest and nationwide to provide a robust pool of applicants for our field forester positions. In addition, if AB 12 becomes law, the Department will work with Forestry Technicians on our staff who are interested in becoming professional foresters but who lack the degree. We will work with them to develop a career plan and support their efforts to obtain the necessary degree from one of the two excellent universities in Wisconsin that have forestry programs accredited by the Society of American Foresters.

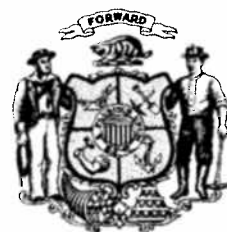
The Department strongly urges the Committee to make two changes to the bill. First, the term "field forester" should be used to clarify the fact that the focus of this legislation is the employees of the Department that practice forestry on the ground. The Department also urges the Committee to delete the phrase "from a school located in another country," from line six on page 2. The revised statement will still enable us to consider equivalent degrees from other countries, but it will also allow us to consider candidates with degrees providing the equivalent to what they would have received with an SAF accredited degree in forestry. The SAF itself, in implementing its Certified Forester program, accepts equivalent degrees. What's key is that candidates have the coursework and other training that prepares them - along with important interpersonal and managerial attributes - to be successful field foresters.

The Department urges this Committee to support AB 12 with these changes and advocate its passage by the Legislature.

I appreciate this opportunity to express the Department's support for AB 12 and would be glad to answer any questions you might have.



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



**WISCONSIN CONSULTING FORESTERS (WCF)**  
*Dedicated to high professional standards for forestry in Wisconsin*

February 11, 2003

Chairman Donald R Friske  
Assembly Committee on Forestry  
312 North Capitol  
PO Box 8952  
Madison, WI 53708-8952

Dear Representative Friske:

The Wisconsin Consulting Foresters support AB 12 relating to proposed educational requirements for foresters employed by the Department of Natural Resources. This legislation will standardize the educational requirements for foresters employed by the Department who provide services for private forest landowners. The current administrative codes NR1.21 (2) (e) and NR47.70 (2) (e) require that county forest administrators and cooperating private forestry consultants contracting with the DNR hold a bachelor's degree or higher from a university or college with a curriculum accredited by the Society of American Foresters. As the organization that represents private consulting foresters from across the state, we feel that the DNR should have the same requirements for their own foresters, as the DNR requires of cooperating consulting foresters.

If I can provide further information, please call.

Sincerely,



Allan Waelchli, Chairman  
W7251 Belle Plaine Ave.  
Shawano, WI 54166

# Wisconsin Consulting Foresters WCF

## MISSION STATEMENT

Wisconsin Consulting Foresters (WCF) are committed to the promotion and improvement of forest resources. We are further committed to sound forest management that shall fully utilize the principles of sustainable forestry and must adhere to high standards of professional ethics. Our primary goals are:

- I. Raise the requirements of ethical forest management decision-making.
- II. Education of our peers, landowners and resource managers to the value and importance of consulting foresters and their positive impact upon forest resource management.
- III. Improve upon the important relationships we have with resource partners such as, DNR, WWOA, and Wisconsin Forest Productivity Council.
- IV To provide excellence in forest management services for all forest landowners.

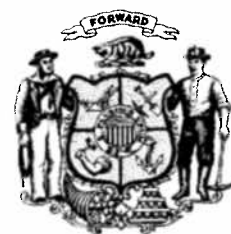
We believe this credo is for the benefit of all forest resources and critical to the health and vitality of professional consulting forestry in Wisconsin.

Allan Waelchli Chairman  
Wisconsin Consulting Foresters  
W7251 Belle Plaine Ave.  
Shawano, WI 54166

(715) 526-6020  
forest2@frontiernet.net



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





AFT/AFL-CIO

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BOB BEGLINGER, President

<http://www.wft.org>

WFT COUNCILS:

- Graduate Assistants
- Higher Ed
- K-12
- PSRP
- State Employees
- WTCS

**TO:** Assembly Committee on Forestry

**FROM:** Wisconsin Federation of Teachers

**DATE:** 11 February 2003

**RE:** AB 12— educational requirements for foresters employed by the Department of Natural Resources and persons authorized to designate trees for cutting in state forests.

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**The Wisconsin Federation of Teachers supports AB12**, which would require every forester who is employed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to have received a bachelor's or higher degree in forestry from a school of forestry with a curriculum accredited by the Society of American Foresters.

WFT has long held that positions that require professional training should be supportive of efforts to set standards for professional certification, licensure, and professional development. This bill certainly meets those criteria.

WFT would also like to thank the authors of the bill for making the legislation prospective. Many of the foresters that WFT represents have the requirements enumerated in this bill; others have received on the job training.

As one small point, some of our members raised concerns about certifications received in other countries referenced in the bill. If there were technical amendments offered to clarify that issue, we would be supportive of those issues.

Should you have additional comments or questions, feel free to contact Cory Mason in the WFT Government Relations department at [mason@wft.org](mailto:mason@wft.org) or 608/277-7700.

WFT would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to offer input regarding AB12.

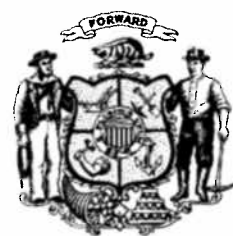
*The Wisconsin Federation of Teachers represents over 10,000 state employees, including the foresters that work at the Department of Natural Resources.*







# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



AB 12

Friske spoke in favor.  
Paul DeLong spoke in favor.  
Colette Matthews spoke in favor.  
Allen Welch spoke in favor.  
Eugene Roark spoke in favor.  
Mary Stewart spoke in favor.