



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2003 Assembly Bill 13

Assembly Amendment 1

Memo published: October 23, 2003

Contacts: Rachel Letzing, Staff Attorney (266-3370) and
John Stolzenberg, Staff Scientist (266-2988)

Current law allows the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to sell timber on state park or state forest land which has been damaged by fire or wind, on the terms and in the manner that DNR determines is in the best interest of the state. Current law allows counties to sell timber from a county forest; however, current law specifies that county timber sales are subject to contract and cutting limitations, and to presale bidding, advertising, and appraisal requirements regardless of whether the timber is damaged.

Assembly Bill 13 expands the authority of the DNR to sell damaged timber by allowing DNR to sell timber on any land under the DNR's jurisdiction and to include timber damaged by snow, hail, or ice. The amendment also allows a county to sell timber damaged by fire, wind, snow, hail, or ice, on the terms and in the manner that the county determines is in the county's best interest.

Assembly Amendment 1 further provides that the DNR and a county may sell timber damaged by insects or disease. The amendment also specifies that a county selling damaged timber must continue following the contract and cutting limitations and presale appraisal requirements for county timber sales in current law.

Legislative History

The Assembly Committee on Forestry held a public hearing on Assembly Bill 13 on February 11, 2003, but took no executive action at that time. Assembly Amendment 1 was introduced by Representative Friske on March 10, 2003. In executive session on April 28, 2003, the committee voted to adopt Assembly Amendment 1 by a vote of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0; and to recommend passage of the bill, as amended, by the same vote.

On September 23, 2003, the Assembly adopted Assembly Amendment 1 and passed Assembly Bill 13, as amended, on separate voice votes.

The Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources recommended concurrence in the bill on October 21, 2003 on a vote of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0.

REL:JES:flu:rv;ksm;wu