



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2005 Assembly Bill 7

**Assembly Amendments
1 and 2**

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Current law provides that an owner of land may apply to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to enroll the land in the Managed Forest Land (MFL) program. A parcel of land is eligible for designation as managed forest land if it consists of at least 10 contiguous acres in a single municipality (city, town, or village) and at least 80% of the land is producing or capable of producing a minimum of 20 cubic feet of merchantable timber per acre per year.

Assembly Bill 7 removes the MFL eligibility requirement that the 10 contiguous acres required for enrollment in the program be located in a single municipality.

Assembly Amendment 1 deletes SECTION 18 of the bill, which provides that if an acre of managed forest land is located in two or more municipalities, the DNR must make the annual 20 cents per acre payment to the treasurer of the municipality in which the largest portion of the acre is located. Currently, the DNR is able to split payments on one contiguous parcel between two municipalities, allowing each municipality to receive payment based on the acreage enrolled in the program.

Assembly Amendment 2 deletes language modifying allowable closed acreage limits from those specified in current law. Currently, up to 160 acres of land may be closed to public access in each municipality, and of those 160 acres, not more than 80 acres in each municipality may have been designated as managed forest land before April 28, 2004. The bill allows up to 160 acres of land to be closed statewide. Assembly Amendment 2 provides that up to 160 acres of land may be closed in each municipality. The amendment also removes the term “entire parcel of land” from the section of the bill regarding withdrawal of managed forest land. This change reflects that in some instances, an entire parcel of managed forest land may cover several legal descriptions, so requiring withdrawal of an entire parcel may cause more land to be withdrawn from the MFL program than is required under current law.

Legislative History

Assembly Amendments 1 and 2 were offered by Representative Albers. The Assembly Committee on Forestry recommended adoption of Assembly Amendments 1 and 2 on votes of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0 and recommended passage of the bill, as amended, by the same vote.

The Joint Committee on Finance recommended adoption of Assembly Amendments 1 and 2 on votes of Ayes, 14; Noes, 2. The committee recommended passage of the bill, as amended, by the same vote.

On February 2, 2006, the Assembly adopted Assembly Amendments 1 and 2 on voice votes, and also passed the bill, as amended, on a voice vote.

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