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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 629

Relating to: the plan period for county forest land use plans.

By Representatives Ainsworth, Friske, Gard, Gronemus, Hines, Hundertmark, LeMahieu, Lothian, McCormick, Montgomery, Musser, Olsen, Ott, Owens and Seratti; cosponsored by Senators Cowles, Lassa, Schultz and Welch.

October 29, 2003 Referred to Committee on Forestry.

January 6, 2004 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: 6 None.
Absent: 6 None.

Appearances For

- Representative John Ainsworth, author.
- Jeff Barkley, DNR Division of Forestry.
- Colette Matthews, Wisconsin County Forests Association

Appearances Against

- None.

Appearances for Information Only

- None.

Registrations For

- Senator Bob Welch, 14th Senate District.
- Gene Francisco, Wisconsin Professional Loggers Association.
- Matt Stohr, Wisconsin Counties Association.
- Gunner Bergerson, Lase States Lumber/Timber Producers Association

Registrations Against

- None.

February 17, 2004 **EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD**

Present: (6) Representatives Friske, Ainsworth, Seratti, M. Williams, Hubler and Boyle.
Absent: (0) None.

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

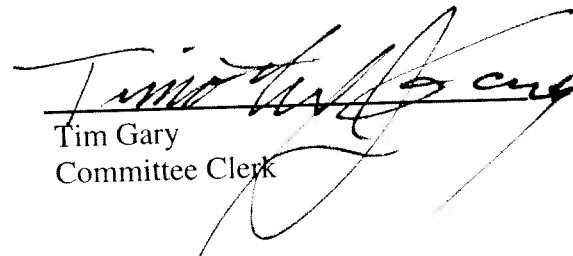
Ayes: (6) Representatives Friske, Ainsworth, Seratti,
M. Williams, Hubler and Boyle.
Noes: (0) None.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1 ADOPTION RECOMMENDED,
Ayes 6, Noes 0

Moved by Representative Hubler, seconded by Representative Ainsworth that **Assembly Bill 629** be recommended for passage.

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

PASSAGE RECOMMENDED, Ayes 5, Noes 1



Tim Gary
Committee Clerk

Vote Record Committee on Forestry

Date: 2-17-04

Moved by: Hubler

Seconded by: Ainsworth

AB 629 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

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

Vote Record Committee on Forestry

Date: 2-17-04

Moved by: Hubler

Seconded by: Seratti

AB 629

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:

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Passage | <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption | <input type="checkbox"/> Confirmation | <input type="checkbox"/> Concurrence | <input type="checkbox"/> Indefinite Postponement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Introduction | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection | <input type="checkbox"/> Tabling | <input type="checkbox"/> Nonconcurrence | |

Committee Member

Representative Donald Friske, Chair

Representative John Ainsworth

Representative Lorraine Seratti

Representative Mary Williams

Representative Mary Hubler

Representative Frank Boyle

Aye No Absent Not Voting

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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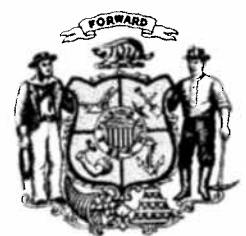
Totals: 6 0 0 _____

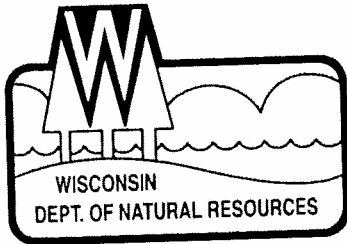
Motion Carried

Motion Failed



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Scott Hassett, Secretary

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Assembly Bill 629 Assembly Committee on Forestry

Department of Natural Resources Testimony
Jeff Barkley, County Forest / Public Lands Specialist
Division of Forestry
January 6, 2004

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

Good afternoon. My name is Jeff Barkley and I am the County Forest / Public Lands Specialist with the Department of Natural Resources' Division of Forestry. I appreciate this opportunity to appear before you to discuss AB 629.

The Department of Natural Resources strongly supports AB 629 in principal. This bill changes the effective period of a County Forest Comprehensive Land Use plan from 10 to 15 years. This proposed statute change recognizes the complexity and the time necessary to develop a County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan. During the last round of County Forest planning a typical plan took nearly 3 years to develop. The plan revision process is again underway with plans to be completed by the end of 2005. The complexity of the plans has increased with each planning cycle and indications are that for this current effort, that will hold true. The complexity of the plans and the time needed to complete them are becoming nearly as time consuming as the implementation.

This change would align the County Forests with the State and National Forests. The ability to amend the plans during the planning cycle addresses any concerns over the plans becoming antiquated. Should new technologies, research, or policy indicate need for change, the Counties have the ability to amend their plans. Plan amendments must be approved by the County Board and the Dept. of Natural Resources.

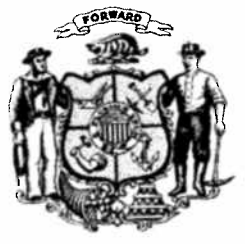
The Department would request the Committee add additional statutory language to clarify the initial start date of the 15 year plans and also provide that the plans remain in effect until revised. This would again be consistent with the State and National Forests and would provide for continued management should a County fail to complete their Plan by the end of a 15 year interval. In addition to the changes from 10 to 15 years already referenced in AB629, the Department would recommend the following statutory change to s. 28.11(5); "The initial 15 year plan shall be completed by Dec. 31, 2005 and shall remain in effect until revised. Revisions shall occur on 15 year intervals." This change would replace the last sentence in Section 1 of AB629.

The Department urges the Committee to approve AB629 with the suggested amendments and facilitate its passage during this legislative session. Given the timing of the current County Forest planning, the change could be easily incorporated into the plan revisions currently in progress and scheduled for completion by December of 2005.

I appreciate this opportunity to express the Department's support for AB 629 and would be glad to answer any questions you might have.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



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Assembly Bill 629
Assembly Committee on Forestry

Testimony - Wisconsin County Forests Association
Colette Matthews, Executive Secretary
January 6, 2004

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

Hello. My name is Colette Matthews and I am the Executive Secretary for the Wisconsin County Forests Association. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to address you today on AB 629.

The Wisconsin County Forests Association strongly supports AB 629. Each of the 29 counties we represent is gearing up to once again write a comprehensive forest management plan for their county forest. If a change is to be made in the plan's time span, now is the time to do it.

Reasons for requesting a change in time span for these forest plans from ten to fifteen years include the following:

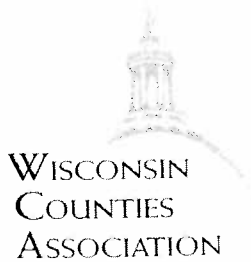
- State and National Forest plans run on a fifteen year cycle. AB 629 puts the counties on a similar schedule.
- A good plan costs much time and many dollars, both of which are in short supply at the both the county and state level. Extending the plan time span to fifteen years would save each county and the Department of Natural Resources time and tax dollars.
- A good plan may be modified as needed during its time span by following the amendment process at the County Board level and with Department of Natural Resources approval.

- Forest plans tend to be large and complicated. Not all counties complete their plans within the time span allowed by the law. Questions arise when this happens. Is such a county still covered by the county forest law?
- The amendment proposed by the Department as explained by Jeff Barkley is supported by the WCFA. This amendment, which would allow a county to continue to operate under its current plan until a new plan is adopted, removes any question regarding a county's forest remaining under the county forest law.

I would like to make a plea for positive action on this bill. It is important to act on it during this legislative session. The next legislative session will most likely be unable to act in a timely manner, thus requiring the next forest plan to again expire in ten years.

Thank you for taking time to listen to my remarks. If you have any questions I will attempt to answer them for you.






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MEMORANDUM

TO: Assembly Committee on Forestry

FROM: Matthew Stohr, Legislative Associate 

DATE: January 6, 2003

SUBJECT: Assembly Bill 629

The Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) strongly supports Assembly Bill 629 (AB 629), which relates to the plan period for county forest land use plans. AB 629 requires that each county forest land use plan be prepared for a 15 year period rather than a 10 year period, which is current law.

There are many reasons WCA feels AB 629 is good public policy. First, by changing the 10 year period to a 15 year period, AB 629 could potentially save taxpayer money in the Wisconsin counties that have county forests. WCA feels that planning is important to local units of government, however, there are costs associated with any type of planning. AB 629 would reduce county costs by limiting the number of times that counties need to develop county forest plans. In addition, it may take certain counties a minimum of two years to draft a county forest plan, meaning that there are only six years between county forest plans. The more time counties are required to spend working on their plan, the less time county foresters have to do actual field work. Therefore, AB 629 would save taxpayer money and it would allow county forestry staff resources to be used more effectively.

Second, the 15 year period required by AB 629 would bring the counties more into line with national and state forest planning time frames. Both the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the United States Department of Agriculture-Forest Service currently use a 15 year period.

Currently, county forest plans are amended as needed to adapt to developments in information, techniques and technology. AB 629 does not change the county ability to amend county forest plans. It simply changes the period that counties must develop a new plan. Since counties may amend existing plans, WCA feels it makes fiscal sense to increase the county forest plan period from 10 years to 15 years.

Thank you for considering our comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me at the WCA office if you have any questions.