

2005 ASSEMBLY BILL 316

April 12, 2005 – Introduced by Representatives AINSWORTH, FRISKE, FREESE, GUNDERSON, HAHN, HINES, HUBLER, HUNDERTMARK, LEMAHIEU, MEYER, MUSSER, OTT, OWENS, PETROWSKI, TOWNSEND, VRAKAS and NERISON, cosponsored by Senators KEDZIE, GROTHMAN and LASSA. Referred to Committee on Forestry.

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 28.11 (5) (a); and *to create* 28.11 (5m) (c) and 28.11 (5r) (c) of
2 the statutes; **relating to:** the plan period for county forest land use plans and
3 eligibility for grants for county forest administrators and sustainable forestry.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, a county board may enact an ordinance designating a committee to manage lands designated as county forests in that county. A comprehensive county forest land use plan must be prepared for the county forest land by that committee. The plan must include land use designations, land acquisition, forest protection, annual allowable timber harvests, recreational developments, projects to be undertaken during the plan period, and other information. The plan must be prepared for a 10-year period and must be revised when the plan period expires.

This bill requires that each county forest land use plan be prepared for a 15-year period rather than a 10-year period. It also requires that the plan be revised every 15 years. The bill specifies that if the plan is not revised, the plan remains in effect until it is revised and the revised plan takes effect.

Under current law, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administers two programs for the purpose of making grants to counties having lands designated as county forest lands. Under one of these programs DNR may make grants for the purpose of funding a portion of the salary for a county forest administrator or assistant administrator. Under the other grant program, DNR may make grants for the purpose of funding the cost of activities designed to improve sustainable forestry.

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This bill provides that DNR may choose not to make either type of grant to an eligible county if the county board for that county is more than one year delinquent in approving a comprehensive county forest land use plan or revised plan.

For further information see the *state and local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 28.11 (5) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 28.11 (5) (a) ~~A~~ On or before December 31, 2005, a comprehensive county forest
3 land use plan shall be prepared for a ~~10-year~~ 15-year period by the county forestry
4 committee with the assistance of technical personnel from the department and other
5 interested agencies, and shall be approved by the county board and the department.
6 The plan shall include land use designations, land acquisition, forest protection,
7 annual allowable timber harvests, recreational developments, fish and wildlife
8 management activities, roads, silvicultural operations and operating policies and
9 procedures; it shall include a complete inventory of the county forest and shall be
10 documented with maps, records and priorities showing in detail the various projects
11 to be undertaken during the plan period. The plan may include an application for
12 aids under s. 23.09 (17m). The application will be considered an annual application
13 for these aids during the ~~10-year~~ 15-year period of the plan. The initial plan ~~shall~~
14 ~~be completed within 2 years from October 2, 1963 and may be revised as changing~~
15 ~~conditions require and shall be revised upon expiration of the plan period.~~ Upon the
16 expiration of the initial 15-year plan period, and upon expiration of each subsequent
17 15-year plan period, the plan shall be revised and shall be in effect for another
18 15-year period. If a plan under this paragraph is not revised upon expiration of the
19 15-year plan period, or if a plan under s. 28.11 (5) (a), 2003 stats., is not revised on

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1 or before December 31, 2005, that plan shall remain in effect until such time as that
2 plan is revised and the revised plan takes effect.

3 **SECTION 2.** 28.11 (5m) (c) of the statutes is created to read:

4 28.11 **(5m)** (c) The department may choose not to make a grant to a county
5 under this subsection if the county board for that county is more than one year
6 delinquent in approving a comprehensive county forest land use plan or revised plan
7 under sub. (5) (a).

8 **SECTION 3.** 28.11 (5r) (c) of the statutes is created to read:

9 28.11 **(5r)** (c) The department may choose not to make a grant to a county under
10 this subsection if the county board for that county is more than one year delinquent
11 in approving a comprehensive county forest land use plan or revised plan under sub.
12 (5) (a).

13 **(END)**