Fiscal Estimate - 2005 Session

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LRB	Number	05-1032/	1	Introdu	ction Number	er A	B-7					
Subject Acreage requirement under managed forest land program												
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				Blair Kruger (6	r Kruger (608) 266-1310							

Fiscal Estimate Narratives DOR 2/4/2005

LRB Number 05-1032/1	Introduction Number	AB-7	Estimate Type	Original					
Subject									
Acreage requirement under managed forest land program									

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under current law, a parcel of land is eligible for designation as managed forest land if it meets certain requirements. One requirement is that the parcel must contain at least ten contiguous acres of land in a single municipality. Under the bill, the ten contiguous acres could be in two or more municipalities.

The bill may increase the number of acres eligible for designation as managed forest land. The Department of Revenue does not have information which would permit a reasonable estimate of how many additional acres would be so designated.

State Fiscal Effect:

An owner of land designated as managed forest land is required to permit public access to the land for hunting and other recreational purposes. However, he or she may close up to 160 acres to public access. Annually, for land designated as managed forest land after April 28, 2004 and closed to public access, the owner must pay a fee of \$5.82 per acre for deposit in the state conservation fund. If the bill increases the number acres of managed forest land closed to public access, state revenues will increase.

Annually, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) pays \$0.20 per acre to municipalities where land designated as managed forest land is located. If the bill increases the number of acres designated as managed forest land, total payments by DNR to municipalities will increase.

Local Fiscal Effect

The municipality retains 80% of the \$0.20 per acre payment from the DNR and remits the remaining 20% to the county. Annually, on land designated as managed forest land after April 28, 2004, the owner must pay a fee of \$1.46 per acre to the municipality where the land is located. The municipality retains 80% of the payment and remits the remaining 20% to the county. If the bill increases the number of acres of managed forest land, revenues to municipalities and counties will increase.

Land designated as managed forest land is exempt from local property taxes. If the bill increases the number of acres of designated as managed forest land, property taxes will be shifted from owners of designated managed forest land to all other property tax owners.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications