

DRAFTER'S NOTE
FROM THE
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

LRB-4382/1dn

RNK:cjs:rs

March 1, 2010

This draft creates a Department of Environmental Quality as under LRB-3412/1 and also transfers the responsibility to administer programs related to forestry from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). The bill does not transfer responsibilities with regard to southern state forests because those lands are managed generally in the same way that parks are administered. Please let me know if this is not consistent with your intent.

Under current law, the stewardship program authorizes DNR to obligate funds for the acquisition and development of state lands. Because under this draft the management of forests will be the responsibility of DATCP rather than DNR, the draft requires DNR and DATCP to enter into an agreement each fiscal year with regard to obligating funds under the stewardship program. The draft requires the secretary of the Department of Administration to resolve any disputes between DNR and DATCP concerning the agreement. Again, please let me know if this is not consistent with your intent.

Also, please look at s. 230.08 (2) (e) 2. and 8. as amended in the draft to ensure that the number of division administrators established under those provisions meets your intent. Finally, s. 20.370 (7) (mc) is an appropriation for state park, forest, and riverway roads. That appropriation in current law contains an expenditure limit. I did not adjust this limit even though the appropriation, as amended, will not apply to state forest roads. Under the draft, the appropriation for state forest roads is now established under s. 20.115 (5) (b) which is a DATCP appropriation. I did not reduce the expenditure limit in s. 20.270 (7) (mc) because I do not know how much funding should be specifically attributed to state forest roads. Please let me know if you would like to discuss this issue or if you have any instructions on how you would like to amend the DNR appropriation.

Robin N. Kite
Legislative Attorney
Phone: (608) 266-7291
E-mail: robin.kite@legis.wisconsin.gov