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State of Misconsin 2009 - 2010 LEGISLATURE

2009 ASSEMBLY BILL 715

February 9, 2010 – Introduced by Representatives CLARK, MILROY, DANOU, MOLEPSKE JR., HUBLER and ROYS, cosponsored by Senators HOLPERIN, LEHMAN, TAYLOR and HANSEN. Referred to Committee on Forestry.

1 AN ACT to amend 77.83 (1) (a) (intro.); and to create 77.83 (1) (d) of the statutes;

relating to: certain areas of land subject to managed forest land orders that

were part of parcels of land that exceeded 1,000 acres in size.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under the Managed Forest Land (MFL) Program administered by the Department of Natural Resources, the owner of a parcel of land designated as MFL makes an annual acreage share payment that is lower than, and in lieu of, the property taxes that normally would be payable on the land. In exchange, the owner must comply with certain forestry practices. The owner may keep a specific area closed to public access and the remainder of the MFL must be kept open for recreational activities, such as hunting, fishing, and cross-country skiing. For MFL that is closed to the public, the MFL owner must make an additional payment. Current law imposes size limits on the area that may be closed and one of these limits is a maximum of 160 acres in a single town, city, or village.

Under this bill, an MFL owner may not close a specific area even if it is 160 acres or less in a single town, city, or village if the specific area of land was, on January 1, 2009, part of a parcel under single ownership that exceeded 1,000 acres in size and that was not subject to a MFL order or to a contract under the forest cropland or woodland tax laws.

ASSEMBLY BILL 715

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. 77.83 (1) (a) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:
2	77.83 (1) (a) (intro.) An Except as prohibited under par. (d), an owner may
3	designate <u>an area of</u> land subject to a managed forest land order as closed to public
4	access. The closed area may consist of either:
5	SECTION 2. 77.83 (1) (d) of the statutes is created to read:
6	77.83(1)(d) An area of land 160 acres in size or less that is subject to a managed
7	forest land order dated January 1, 2010, or later may not be closed to public access
8	if the land was, on January 1, 2009, part of a contiguous parcel to which all of the
9	following applied on January 1, 2009:
10	1. The parcel exceeded 1,000 acres in size.
11	2. The parcel was located in a single municipality and was under single
12	ownership.
13	3. The parcel was not subject to a contract under the forest cropland program
14	or the woodland tax law under subch I of ch. 77, or to an order under the managed
15	forest land program under subch. VI of ch. 77.
16	(END)