



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;
2 **relating to:** certain areas of land subject to managed forest land orders that
3 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.

