

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 4 - 0 - 1
Yeas: Bates, Beyer, Prozanski, Avakian
Nays: 0
Exc.: Atkinson
Prepared By: Sue Marshall, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 5/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates exemptions to scenic highway requirements under the Forest Practices Act for harvests within an urban growth boundary and for harvests within zones designated for rural residential development pursuant to an adopted exception to the statewide land use planning goals.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Waivers granted to protect infrastructure and public safety
- Administrative efficiencies for Department of Forestry existing authority

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Forest Practices Act (FPA) designates scenic highways for the purpose of maintaining roadside trees along such highways. The State Forester has the authority to waive or modify this requirement through approval of an alternate plan. Many scenic highways run through or adjacent to urban growth boundaries (UGB) and rural residential zones and, due to the potential risk to public safety and infrastructure, the requirement to retain trees is almost always waived.

House Bill 2974 eliminates the need for case-by-case waiver determinations by exempting harvests within a UGB and zones designated as rural residential from the requirements for scenic highways under the FPA.