

SB 772 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Action Date: 04/09/19

Action: Do pass with amendments. Refer to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng).

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Bentz, Dembrow, Olsen, Prozanski, Roblan

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 4/8, 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Task Force on Forest Health Enhancement (Task Force). Specifies Task Force membership. Directs Governor to invite nonvoting members. Directs Task Force to develop recommendations for achieving forest health enhancement through a statewide program similar to federal 21st Century Conservation Service Corps and designed to promote, facilitate, and encourage collaboration with organizations to reduce forest fuel levels and reduce barriers and provide incentives for public-private partnerships to reduce wildfire risk in forests. Directs Task Force to submit a report to the legislature in time for action in the 2020 regular session, and to make every effort to submit the report by the convening of that session. Directs Department of Forestry to provide staff support to Task Force. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Forest fuel levels and recent wildfires
- Federal legislation recently passed to create 21st Century Conservation Service Corps
- Opportunities for public-private partnerships
- Workforce development
- Task force membership

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

The reduction of forest fuel loads is one strategy forest land owners may use to make forests more resilient to fire, drought, and insect damage.

Senate Bill 772-A would create the Task Force on Forest Health Enhancement to make recommendations on achieving forest health enhancement through a statewide program similar to the federal 21st Century Conservation Service Corps and designed to promote, facilitate, and encourage collaboration with organizations to reduce forest fuel levels and reduce barriers and provide incentives for public-private partnerships to reduce wildfire risk in forests.