

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

SB 5521

Department of Forestry

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Natural Resources Subcommittee
Carrier: Senator Frederick

SB 5521 is the budget bill for the Department of Forestry.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends a budget for the Department of over \$661 million total funds, which supports 1,412 positions. This includes approximately \$163 million in General Fund; \$3 million in Lottery Funds; \$411 million in Other Funds; and \$85 million in Federal Funds. This budget represents a 9% increase above the 2025-27 current service level.

Recommended packages total \$54 million, including approximately \$5 million General Fund, \$20 million Other Funds, and \$28 million in Federal Funds. The cumulative investment focuses on maintaining core services, completing procurement of a multi-mission capable aircraft, the continuation of grant delivery, and support for the Private Forest Accord and associated Habitat Conservation Plan.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends SB 5521 be amended by the –2 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.