

Department of Planning and Budget

2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB184

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|------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| House of Origin | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced | <input type="checkbox"/> Substitute | <input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed |
| Second House | <input type="checkbox"/> In Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Substitute | <input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled |

2. Patron: Ruff

3. Committee: Finance and Appropriations

4. Title: Land use valuation for real estate devoted to forest use; creation of Forest Sustainability Fund.

5. Summary: Creates the Forest Sustainability Fund, to be administered by the State Forester. Localities that have adopted a use value assessment and taxation program for real estate devoted to forest use are eligible to apply for an allocation from the Fund. Awards are proportionally based upon the amount of revenue forgone in the previous fiscal year by localities due to the use value program.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: A budget amendment will be necessary in order to capitalize the Fund.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary. See Item 8, below.

8. Fiscal Implications: A budget amendment of an indeterminate amount is necessary to capitalize the Fund. This bill requires the Department of Forestry (DOF) to develop guidelines for the administration of the Fund. It is anticipated that any costs the department may incur in developing the guidelines and administering the Fund can be absorbed within existing resources; however, workload will depend on the size of the program implemented as a result of this bill.

Localities are to use any funds received from the Fund to support public education generally or for projects related to outdoor recreation or forest conservation.

The Department of Taxation does not anticipate a fiscal impact from this bill. Estimates of the any impact this bill may have on the Department of Education are unavailable.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Forestry, localities.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: This bill is the companion to HB 180, as introduced.