
State Government & Tribal Affairs
Committee

HB 1177

Brief Description: Regarding field investigations on privately owned lands.

Sponsors: Representatives Hunt and McCoy.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Revises legislative intent that field investigations on privately owned lands should be conducted by professional archaeologists.
- Adds a definition for "field investigation."

Hearing Date: 1/27/11

Staff: Marsha Reilly (786-7135).

Background:

State law provides that archaeological studies conducted on public lands be performed by professional archaeologists. Professional archaeologist is defined as: a person with qualifications meeting the federal Secretary of the Interior's (Secretary) standards for a professional archaeologist. Archaeologists not meeting this standard may be conditionally employed by working under the supervision of a professional archaeologist for a period of four years provided the employee is pursuing qualifications necessary to meet the Secretary's standards for a professional archaeologist. During this four-year period, the professional archaeologist is responsible for all findings. The four-year period is not subject to renewal.

The Secretary's standards for a professional archaeologist require a graduate degree in archaeology, anthropology, or closely related field plus:

- at least one year of full-time professional experience or equivalent specialized training in archaeological research, administration or management;

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- at least four months of supervised field and analytic experience in general North American archaeology; and
- demonstrated ability to carry research to completion.

In addition to these minimum qualifications, a professional in prehistoric archaeology shall have at least one year of full-time professional experience at a supervisory level in the study of archaeological resources of the prehistoric period. A professional in historic archaeology shall have at least one year of full-time professional experience at a supervisory level in the study of archaeological resources of the historic period.

Summary of Bill:

Legislative intent pertaining to archaeological field investigations conducted on privately owned lands is revised to state that such work should be conducted by professional archaeologists.

A "field investigation" is defined as an on-site inspection by a professional archaeologist or by an individual under the direct supervision of a professional archaeologist employing archaeological inspection techniques for both the surface and subsurface identification of archaeological resources and artifacts resulting in a professional archaeological report detailing the results of such inspection.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.