

FINAL BILL REPORT

SB 6073

C 71 L 18
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Adjusting assessments levied on hardwood processors.

Sponsors: Senator Takko.

Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks
House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources

Background: In 1990, the Legislature authorized the creation of a Washington Hardwoods Commission (Commission) to foster the growth and development of the hardwood industry in Washington. The Commission is comprised of seven members. All members are members of the hardwood industry. The Commission must assist in the retention, expansion, and attraction of hardwood-related industries by creating a climate for development and support of the industry. The Commission must coordinate efforts to enhance and promote the expansion of the forest industry among state and federal agencies, industry organizations, and institutions of higher education. The Commission has a duty to develop an enhancement and protection program that will reduce waste and respect environmental sensitivity. The Commission must also work cooperatively with the Department of Natural Resources in the development of best management practices for hardwood resources.

To provide for permanent funding of the Commission, an assessment schedule is set in statute and is based on a hardwood processor's quarterly production by weight. The Commission may develop formulas to convert other measurements to tons of production. Assessments made by the Commission are personal debts and if a person fails to pay, the Commission may add up to 10 percent of the assessment to defray costs of enforcement. Civil action by the Commission may be brought against persons who fail to pay.

Summary: The assessment shall be \$0.04 per ton produced. Beginning July 1, 2019, and every July 1 thereafter, the assessment must be adjusted to reflect the percentage change in the implicit price deflator for personal consumption expenditures for the United States as published for the most recent twelve-month period by September 25th of the year before the assessments are payable.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	48	1
House	98	0

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Effective: July 1, 2018