

2 2SSB 5574 - S Amd - 148

3 By Senators Fraser, Franklin, Fairley and Spanel

4 NOT ADOPTED 3/15/95

5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
6 following:

7 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that in the early
8 1900's and up through the 1930's, counties took possession of a number
9 of forest land parcels as a result of tax delinquencies. In many
10 cases, the timber had already been harvested from these lands prior to
11 the forfeiture of the property to the counties. Since that time, the
12 department of natural resources has reforested and managed these lands
13 in conjunction with the state trust lands. Given changes in forest
14 practices, recent fluctuation in income from the forest board lands,
15 and interest by some counties in having management responsibilities
16 transferred to them, the legislature directs that the legislative
17 budget committee conduct a study of the statutory mandates governing
18 state forest lands, federal statutes that impact state management of
19 such lands, and the desirability of transferring such responsibilities
20 to counties, including an analysis of the ability of counties to assume
21 such responsibilities.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The study under section 1 of this act shall
23 include the following subjects:

24 (1) The role of the forest board land in the state's sustained
25 yield calculations and the effect of removing all or part of those
26 lands on income, yield, and management policies;

27 (2) Board of natural resources policies for management of forest
28 board lands and analysis of costs to such management, including
29 reforestation;

30 (3) The long- and short-term implications of separating the forest
31 board lands from the total lands managed by the department, including
32 costs to state and county governments, and probable revenue impacts to
33 state programs, including firefighting and to junior taxing districts;

34 (4) The effects of transfer on public access, recreation, and the
35 management of other public and private lands;

1 (5) A comparison of forest management procedures and costs between
2 Grays Harbor county and similar forest board and similar state trust
3 lands;

4 (6) Potential changes in state and county employees due to changes
5 in management;

6 (7) Examine the best possible methods and procedures to transfer
7 the forest board lands to the counties.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The findings of the study, along with
9 recommendations to the legislature, shall be submitted to the
10 appropriate standing committees of the legislature by December 1, 1995.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
12 act, referencing this act by bill number, is not provided by June 30,
13 1995, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act shall be null and
14 void."

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