

**HEB**

**182**

# SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 2/26/98

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED IN TO OFFICE: 3/12/98

Resources Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 182(RLS)

"An Act relating to the qualifications of the state forester."

and recommends:

- be replaced with S CS HB 182 (RES)
- adopt previous \_\_\_\_\_ CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt Letter of Intent by \_\_\_\_\_ Committee
- further referral to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

- Senate Bill: same title
- new title
- House Bill:**
- same title
- technical title
- new: SCR# \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNING DO PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	NR	DNP	AM
<i>John Ingram</i>	✓	<i>Loren A. Heman</i>			✓
<i>Chris Taylor</i>	✓				
<i>Linda Beck</i>	✓				
<i>Bob King</i>	✓				
<b>CHAIR: <i>Paul Helford</i></b>	✓	<b>CHAIR:</b>			

**NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department                      Date              Zero              Fiscal


**PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):\***

Department                      Date              Zero              Fiscal

<i>DNR - FORESTRY</i>	<i>2/11/98</i>	<i>X</i>	

APPROPRIATION -- no fiscal note

\*include fiscal notes accompanying Governor's bill

# FISCAL NOTE

No: 1

Bill Version: CSHB 182 (RES)

(H) Publish Date: 2/16/98

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**1998 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Revision Date:	Dept Affected: <u>Natural Resources</u>
Title: <u>An Act Relating to the qualifications of the State Forester</u>	BRU: <u>Resource Development</u>
Sponsor: <u>Representative Williams</u>	Component: <u>Forest Mgmt &amp; Development</u>
Requestor: <u>House Finance</u>	Component Serial No. <u>#435</u>

Expenditures/Revenues	(Thousands of Dollars)					
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES (fund code)</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

FUND SOURCE	(Thousands of Dollars)					
1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY98) cost: \$ none

POSITIONS	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04
FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

There is no anticipated fiscal impact associated with implementation of this legislation.

Prepared by: <u>Jeff Jahnke, State Forester</u>	<i>John Sluiter</i>	Phone: <u>465-3379</u>	
Division: <u>Forestry</u>		Date: <u>11-Feb-98</u>	
Approved by Commissioner: <i>John Sluiter</i>		Date: <u>2-11-98</u>	
Agency: <u>Natural Resources</u>			

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Rick Halford

FROM: Brett Huber

DATE: March 11, 1998

SUBJECT: HB 182

=====

Following is a synopsis of the Resource committee action on HB 182:

amendment #1 Page 1, Line 11 Delete "a forestry-related  
program" and Insert "forest management"

amendment #2 Page 1, following line 13 Insert "or at least eight  
years of professional work experience as a forester."

Following the two amendments the committee moved the SCS for HB 182(RES) out with individual recommendations and accompanying fiscal note.

# Alaska State Legislature

Committees:  
Transportation, Chairman  
Resources  
Economic Development  
Rules



Representative William K. Williams

During Session:  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
(907) 465-3424  
Fax (907) 465-3793

In Ketchikan:  
50 Front Street, Suite 203  
Ketchikan, AK 99901  
(907) 247-4672  
Fax (907) 225-7157

2/24/98

## Sponsor Statement

### House Bill 182

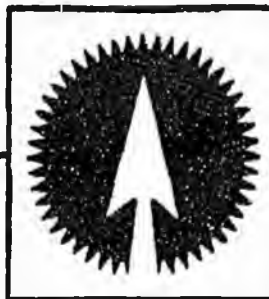
#### **“An act relating to the qualifications of the State forester.”**

This bill would require the state forester (director of the Division of Forestry) to have a bachelor's or higher degree in a forestry-related program and have three years of field experience in forestry. It would also require the commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources to solicit and consider the recommendations of the state Fire Chief's Association or successor organization while reviewing the list of candidates for the state forester position forwarded by the board of forestry.

A “forester” is a specialist in forestry. The state forester heads a division comprised of mostly professional foresters and forestry technicians. I believe the division director should have a proper education in forestry and adequate field experience. Under the current statute there are neither forestry qualifications nor field experience required to head the state division of forestry. Considering the statutory defined responsibilities of the division the lack of required forestry qualifications and experience is alarming.

The state forester is charged with fire suppression on state land. In fact over half of the forester's job is related to fire suppression. Because of this fact it is logical that the Fire Chief's Association should have some input in the selection process of the state forester. While the legislation does not bind the commissioner of Natural Resources to act on any particular recommendation it does allow the Chief's to have input during the hiring process.

# Alaska Forest Association, Inc.



111 STEDMAN SUITE 200  
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA 99901-6599  
Phone 907-226-8114  
FAX 907-225-5920

January 23, 1999

The Honorable Bill Williams  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Williams: *Bill*

The Alaska Forest Association wishes to be on record in support of House Bill 182, "An Act relating to the qualifications of the state forester." The legislation requires the director of the division of forestry to be a professional forester, a concept which the AFA heartily endorses. The bill also gives the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association a role in the process of selecting the state forester. This is important to that organization, and AFA supports the fire chiefs' position.

The Division of Forestry is a professional division of state government with a specific mission in the field of forestry. It is principally staffed with professional foresters - men and women trained and working in the broad field of forestry. As with the USDA Forest Service, its focus can be affected by the experience and training of its leadership. Just as you would expect the head of the state's revenue division to be trained and experienced in accounting, it is reasonable to expect the state forester to be trained and experienced in forestry.

AFA believes that the focus of the division should be on forestry and that it should be managed by a qualified and experienced manager who is himself a professional forester. It should be noted that "forestry" as defined and encompassed by college programs under the SAF certification procedures is fairly broad. It includes forest economics, silviculture, timber management, forest hydrology and a host of other sub-disciplines.

Thank you for introducing this legislation. We urge its speedy passage.

Sincerely,

Jack Phelps  
Executive Director



# Alaska Society of American Foresters

9723 Trappers Lane  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
February 12, 1998

Cook Inlet Chapter  
Dixon Entrance Chapter  
Juneau Chapter  
Sitka Chapter  
Stikine Chapter  
Yukon River Chapter

Representative Bill Williams  
State Capital  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Williams:

The Alaska Society of American Foresters believes, consistent with the national Society's position relative to federal natural resource management agencies, that Alaska's state resource management agencies should be lead by professionals pertinent to the agencies' responsibilities.

As regards the Division of Forestry, we believe the State's best interests in behalf of professional scientific management of the State's forest resources, are best served by a professional forester. Requirements for professional membership in the Society of American Foresters (SAF) should serve as a working definition for this purpose. They follow:

- a. Must be a graduate of an SAF accredited forestry curriculum or of a candidate curriculum for accreditation or,
- b. be a recipient of a graduate degree in forestry from an institution that has an SAF accredited forestry curriculum or one that is a candidate for accreditation or,
- c. be a scientist or practitioner who holds a bachelor's or higher degree within the broad field of forestry based on a curriculum that is neither SAF accredited nor a candidate for accreditation and who has three or more years of qualifying experience within the broad field of forestry.

The characteristics of natural resources are such that their most effective management should not be subject to frequent leadership and personnel turnover and policy shifts that preclude continuity.

We support House Bill 182 to the extent that it would require a professional forester to fill the position of Director of the Division of Forestry, Department of Natural Resources, also called the State Forester.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important legislation. We are available to provide additional help in any way we can and to answer any questions you or members of the Committee may have.

Sincerely,



*for* John C. Sherrod, Chairman  
Alaska Society of American Foresters