



Senate Fiscal Agency
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BILL ANALYSIS



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Senate Bill 1031 (as reported without amendment)
Sponsor: Senator Tom Casperson
Committee: Natural Resources, Environment and Great Lakes

CONTENT

The bill would amend Part 527 (Municipal Forests) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to include a recreational purpose among the authorized uses of municipal forestland.

Under Part 527, a municipality may acquire land or provide land already in its possession and use it for a forestry purpose, and may carry on forestry on the land. The bill would refer to a forestry and/or recreational purpose, and forestry and/or recreational activities, in these provisions.

Part 527 authorizes the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Department of Treasury, or a State officer in charge of State land to sell homestead, tax, swamp, or primary school land to a public agency for a forestry purpose, at a price set by the applicable department or officer. This land is known as "municipal forestland". The land must be suitable for and used solely for a forestry purpose, unless conveyed as provided in Part 527. When the land is no longer used for that purpose, it reverts to the State.

The bill would add a recreational purpose to the allowed uses of municipal forestland, and include in the definition of "municipal forestland" land sold to a public agency for a recreational purpose. "Recreational purpose" would include any motorized or nonmotorized recreational activity.

("Public agency" means a school district, a public educational institution, a governmental unit or agency of the State, or a municipality.)

MCL 324.52702 & 324.52706

Legislative Analyst: Julie Cassidy

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

Date Completed: 6-1-12

Fiscal Analyst: Josh Sefton