

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Version:** Second engrossment

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**Subject:** Timber Sale Changes

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### Overview

Makes a number of administrative and statutory changes in order for the commissioner of natural resources to more efficiently administer the state timber sale program.

#### Section

- 1 Prescribes the procedure and specifications for designations of forest roads by the commissioner.
- 2 Adds new definition for "effective permit."
- 3 Adds new definition for "responsible bidder."
- 4 States that a DNR timber sale contract with a purchaser of wood is not subject to competitive bidding and contract approval under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 16C.
- 5 Requires annual public meetings in the forested areas of the state to explain how the annual harvest plan for timber is divided between informal, intermediate, and regular auction sales.
- 8 8 Requires an annual DNR report to the state Executive Council on the status of the state timber sales and management program.
- 9 Eliminates securities, such as assignable bonds, notes of the U.S. or investment certificates, as instruments in lieu of the bond requirement for a purchaser of state timber.
- 10 States the permit application must cover the DNR's costs in issuing it.
- 12 12 Limits the reward for a person giving information on a trespasser cutting state timber to the greater of \$100, or 10 percent of the single stumpage value of the timber unlawfully cut or removed.
- 13 Modernizes the statutes for the measurement of pulpwood by establishing weights for all

**Section**

species and establishing wood weight between willing buyers and sellers.

**14** Allows a letter of credit or cash deposit by a logger to a county auditor for payment of timber sold on tax-forfeited land.

**15** Repeals Minnesota Statutes, sections 90.01, subdivision 9; 90.041, subdivisions 3 and 4, made obsolete by the changes in this bill.