

Subject Timber Permits

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Overview

This bill would allow the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to modify, cancel, and issue refunds for certain timber permits. A recent paper mill closure has led to less demand for certain species.

Summary

Section Description

1 Timber permits; cancellation and extension.

Subd. 1. Eligibility. Limits eligibility for modifications or cancellations under the bill to permits issued before July 1, 2020. Requires permit holders to not be delinquent or not have an active willful trespass with the state. Requires written requests for relief under the bill to be submitted by July 1, 2021, or before the permit expires, whichever is earlier.

Subd. 2. Extensions. Allows the DNR to extend a timber permit by two years upon written request of the permit holder if the permit volume is for more than 30 percent combined spruce/balsam fir.

Subd. 3. Unused balsam fir. Allows the DNR to cancel any provision in a timber sale requiring security payment or the removal of balsam fir if the permit is for more than 50 cords of balsam fir.

Subd. 4. Refunds. Allows the DNR to issue refunds to permit holders when the permit is not active, the timber is still intact, and the combined permit volume of spruce/balsam fir is more than 30 percent. Allows the DNR to cancel and issue refunds for intact cutting blocks under certain conditions. States that partially harvested blocks are ineligible and remaining provisions of the permit remain in effect.

Subd. 5. Good Neighbor Authority. Allows the DNR to work with the United States Forest Service to provide holders of permits with more than 30 percent combined volume of spruce/balsam fir a way to voluntarily return intact cutting

Section **Description**

blocks designated in Good Neighbor Authority permits and allows the commissioner to cancel and provide refunds for intact cutting blocks in the permits under certain conditions. States that partially harvested blocks are ineligible and remaining provisions of the permit remain in effect.

2 **Appropriation.**

Appropriates \$1,075,000 from the general fund to the DNR for purposes of the timber permit refunds under section 1, subdivision 4.



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