

Subject Forests and Carbon Sequestration

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Overview

This bill makes a number of modifications to forestry related statutes to incorporate climate change and carbon sequestration.

Summary

Section	Description
1	Purpose. Adds natural carbon sequestration to the list of purposes of the Minnesota forests for the future program. The program aims to protect privately owned forest lands through conservation easements and land acquisition and is managed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).
2	Establishment. Adds the potential for providing natural carbon sequestration to the list of factors the DNR must evaluate when selecting lands for the Minnesota forests for the future program.
3	Employing competent foresters; service to private owners. Adds advice in tree selection and care for natural carbon sequestration and climate resiliency to the list of services DNR foresters may provide private forest landowners.
4	Forest resources. Adds carbon sequestration for climate change mitigation to the list of assets of forest lands used in the definition of "forest resources" for purposes of the state forestry statutes (chapter 89).
5	Purpose of planting. Adds natural carbon sequestration and species adaptation to climate change to the list of purposes of the state's tree planting and state nursery activities.

Section	Description
6	Private lands. Reduces the minimum number on seedlings/cuttings that must be in a lot sold by the DNR for private sale from 500 to 250.
7	Purpose. Requires policies and practices developed by the Minnesota Forest Resources Council to acknowledge the importance of the state's forest resources in providing natural carbon sequestration and the role climate change will have on tree species selection and adaptation.
8	Purpose. Adds natural carbon sequestration to the list of roles forests play in context of the purpose of the Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA).



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