

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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This bill would allow an owner of forested land to withdraw from the Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA) program without a penalty when the state acquires a conservation easement on the land enrolled. The conservation easement must be at least as restrictive as the covenant required under the SFIA (a covenant stating that the land “is not and shall not be developed in a manner inconsistent with the requirements and conditions” of the SFIA is required to be recorded with the county the land is located in).

The SFIA is a voluntary program that provides annual payments to owners of forested land enrolled in the program as an incentive to practice long-term sustainable forest management. Under the program, lands must be enrolled for at least eight years and the process to withdraw lands takes four years.