

REVENUE: Minimal revenue impact, no statement issued

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass with Amendments to the A-Engrossed Measure. (Printed B-Engrossed)

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Baertschiger, Burdick, Close, Prozanski, Roblan

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Racquel Rancier, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Modifies statute governing harvest and transport of special forest products. Replaces “mushroom” with “fungi” in definition of special forest product. Removes exemption from permit requirements for certain activities on private lands. Effective July 1, 2014, makes definition of “special forest product” in statute more general and provides for State Board of Forestry to define special forest products by rule. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Truffles are fungi that grow below ground
- Unknown effects of harvesting truffles and potential damage caused by raking
- Use of dogs to locate truffles
- Theft of special forest products including truffles

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Corrects reference to modified subsections of measure.

BACKGROUND: Special forest products are currently listed in statute and include forest products other than traditional timber that can be used for personal, commercial or scientific purposes. Currently, a permit must be obtained from the landowner in order to collect special forest products. State law, however, exempts certain activities from permitting requirements such as the cutting and transport of wild edible mushrooms of one gallon or less; the cutting and transport of cedar salvage, firewood, and round or split products of trees having a total volume of less than 27 cubic feet; and the cutting or transport of other special forest products having a total volume of less than 12 cubic feet.

House Bill 2615 B would change “mushroom” to fungi to include truffles as a special forest product and specifies that the exemption from permit requirements for certain activities apply only to public lands. In addition, the measure would authorize the State Board of Forestry to define special forest products by administrative rule beginning on July 1, 2014.