

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2082

Introduced by Assembly Members Dahle and Chesbro

February 20, 2014

An act to repeal and add Section 4561.1 of the Public Resources Code, relating to forest practices.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2082, as introduced, Dahle. Forest practices: resource conservation standards: stocking standards.

The Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973 prohibits a person from conducting timber operations on timberland unless a timber harvesting plan has been prepared by a registered professional forester and has been submitted to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and approved by the Director of Forestry and Fire Protection or the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Existing law establishes minimum acceptable stocking standards and provides that an area covered by a timber harvesting plan is considered acceptably stocked if certain conditions are met within 5 years after completion of timber operations, including that the area contains an average point count of 300 per acre, as provided. Existing law requires the board to adopt stocking standards for each district, after a public hearing, that are equal to or stricter than the minimum standards.

This bill would delete that requirement and instead authorize the board to adopt alternative stocking standards if those alternative standards are necessary to address variables in forest characteristics, as provided.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 4561.1 of the Public Resources Code is
2 repealed.
3 ~~4561.1. The resource conservation standards relating to~~
4 ~~stocking enumerated in Section 4561 shall constitute minimum~~
5 ~~requirements, and these shall be the standards to which all timber~~
6 ~~harvesting plans shall conform unless the board adopts higher~~
7 ~~stocking standards for each district. The board shall adopt standards~~
8 ~~for each district, after a public hearing, which are equal to or stricter~~
9 ~~than the standards of this chapter and shall report such standards~~
10 ~~to the Legislature.~~
11 It is not the intent of the Legislature in designating minimum
12 standards that such standards shall be deemed to be preferred as
13 the standards to be adopted by the board. The board may, by a
14 majority vote as provided in Section 736, adopt higher minimum
15 standards of stocking if, in the opinion of the board, growing
16 conditions, tree species, site quality, or other factors justify such
17 stricter standards and if such action is consistent with the purposes
18 of this article.
19 SEC. 2. Section 4561.1 is added to the Public Resources Code,
20 to read:
21 4561.1. Notwithstanding the resource conservation standards
22 relating to stocking enumerated in Section 4561, the board may
23 adopt alternative stocking standards to meet the purposes of Section
24 4561 if those alternative standards are necessary to address the
25 variables in forest characteristics.

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