



SENATE MOTION

MADAM PRESIDENT:

I move that Engrossed House Bill 1246 be amended to read as follows:

- 1 Page 11, between lines 18 and 19, begin a new paragraph and insert:
2 "SECTION 20. IC 14-23-4.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
3 AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
4 JULY 1, 2016]:
5 **Chapter 4.5. Old Forest Areas**
6 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "timber management" includes**
7 **any of the following:**
8 (1) **Harvesting timber.**
9 (2) **Planting trees.**
10 (3) **Fertilization.**
11 (4) **Thinning of trees.**
12 (5) **Weeding.**
13 **Sec. 2. (a) Before January 1, 2017, in each state forest, the**
14 **department shall designate as an old forest area at least one (1)**
15 **undivided area comprising at least ten percent (10%) of the state**
16 **forest.**
17 **(b) Wherever possible, the size of an old forest area designated**
18 **under this section must be at least five hundred (500) acres.**
19 **Sec. 3. In designating old forest areas under this chapter, the**
20 **department shall be guided by the following purposes:**
21 (1) **Ensuring that state forests retain trees of age classes that**
22 **cover the entire natural lifespans of Indiana's native trees.**
23 (2) **Providing habitat for forest dependent wildlife species.**
24 (3) **Protecting ecologically sensitive, geologically sensitive, or**
25 **unique areas.**
26 (4) **Protecting water resources.**
27 (5) **Providing public recreational opportunities.**
28 (6) **Maintaining and enhancing aesthetic value.**

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- (7) Providing control areas for purposes of:**
 - (A) assessing how forests are responding naturally to stresses; and**
 - (B) comparing managed forest stands and unmanaged forest stands over time as to productivity, regeneration, and species richness as a guide to logging in a sustainable manner.**

Sec. 4. Beginning January 1, 2017, the department shall produce and keep on file maps and legal descriptions of the old forest areas designated in state forests under this chapter.

Sec. 5. The department shall not:

- (1) conduct; or**
- (2) allow;**

timber management in the old forest areas designated in state forests under this chapter.

Sec. 6. The designation of old forest areas in state forests under this chapter does not affect the following:

- (1) Hunting, fishing, trapping, and the gathering of edible and medicinal plants and mushrooms in the state forests, as permitted by law and administrative rules.**
- (2) Recreational uses of the state forests, such as hiking, camping, horseback riding, and mountain biking, as permitted by law and administrative rules and allowed by state forest management programs.**
- (3) The maintenance of access roads, lanes, and trails in the state forests.**
- (4) Rights of access in existence on January 1, 2017, through the state forests to private property and cemeteries.**
- (5) Methods of monitoring and controlling nonnative invasive species in the state forests other than through the harvesting of timber.**
- (6) Providing emergency medical assistance in the state forests.**
- (7) Conducting search and rescue operations in the state forests.**
- (8) Extinguishing or controlling fires in the state forests."**

Renumber all SECTIONS consecutively.

(Reference is to EHB 1246 as printed February 24, 2016.)

Senator STEELE