

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-117

AN ACT CONCERNING TREE REMOVAL ON PROPERTIES UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 23 \$	FY 24 \$
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Cost	Potential Significant	Potential Significant

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill establishes requirements that the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) must follow before removing or pruning certain trees in state parks and campgrounds. Specifically, the bill requires DEEP to consult with an independent licensed arborist before authorizing the removal or pruning of trees under certain conditions. If the arborist determines that a tree is an immediate public hazard, DEEP may perform the tree removal or trimming, under the bill's provisions. Lastly, the bill requires DEEP to plant replacement trees in the park or campground after tree removal.

The bill could result in significant costs to DEEP to the extent a high number of trees are identified for removal or pruning. It is estimated that the agency may need to hire seven maintainers, at a cost of \$432,156 in FY 23 and \$417,755 in FY 24, including fringe benefits, to replant trees, depending on the actual number required based on the arborist determination. It could also cost DEEP over \$1 million annually for the cost of purchasing replacement trees, depending on the actual number

required.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of dead or dying trees identified for replacement or pruning.