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## OLR Bill Analysis

### SB 965 (File 145, as amended by Senate "A")\*

#### ***AN ACT PROVIDING FUNDING FOR THE REMOVAL OF HAZARDOUS OR DEAD TREES BY MUNICIPALITIES.***

#### **SUMMARY**

By law, the Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP), administered by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), reimburses municipalities for the cost of eligible local capital improvement projects, including hazardous tree removal or trimming for nonutility related hazardous branches, limbs, and trees on municipal property or in a municipal right-of-way.

OPM distributes LoCIP funds to municipalities based on a statutory formula. In addition to the distribution, this bill requires OPM, for FYs 24 and 25, to authorize expense reimbursements for tree removal or trimming projects from funds appropriated to OPM for these projects.

Existing law generally requires LoCIP applications to include a certification that the project for which the municipality requests reimbursement is consistent with its local capital improvement plan. The bill allows the OPM secretary, for any fiscal year, to (1) authorize reimbursement for these tree removal or trimming projects before the municipality has added the project to its local capital improvement plan and (2) require the municipality to certify that it is taking steps to amend its plan to include the project. Under current law, this same exception applies to projects such as establishing bikeways and greenways, land acquisition for public uses, and certain technology upgrades.

\*Senate Amendment "A" eliminates a provision appropriating \$15 million to OPM from the General Fund in FY 24 for hazardous tree removal or trimming LoCIP grants.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 32 Nay 0 (03/03/2023)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 53 Nay 0 (05/08/2023)