General Assembly

Proposed Bill No. 5592

January Session, 2023

LCO No. **2307**

Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
REP. OSBORNE, 16th Dist.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF OLD-GROWTH AND MATURE FORESTS IN THE STATE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

That the general statutes be amended to: (1) Add mature and old-growth forests as priority areas for acquisition by the Natural Area Preserves System and to expressly bring the definition, identification, and management of mature and old-growth forests under the purview of the Natural Heritage, Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Review Board, (2) require that by February 15, 2024, such board shall submit a report to the General Assembly detailing the board's plan to define, identify, and complete an inventory of old-growth and mature forests, and to analyze any threats to mature and old-growth forests in the state, and (3) require that annually thereafter the board shall submit a written report to the General Assembly on or before February 15, 2024, detailing the board's efforts and progress on such plan and including recommendations for the development of policies for conservation strategies for the management and the maximization of protection of mature and old-growth forests and associated rare natural resources.

Statement of Purpose:

To identify, plan for, and manage and protect, old-growth and mature forests, and to provide a mechanism for ongoing reporting to and informing the General Assembly on the status of old-growth forests in the state.