

Bill No.: HB0078 **Effective:** **Immediately**

LSO No.: **26LSO-0180**

Enrolled Act No.: HEA No. 0041

Chapter No.: 99

Prime Sponsor: Select Water Committee

Catch Title: **Forest health grant program.**

Has Report: Yes

Subject: Forest health grant program.

Summary/Major Elements:

- This bill establishes the Forest Health Grant Program, administered by the State Forester, to fund projects improving forest health, water quality, wildfire risk reduction, forest product production and wildlife habitat.
- Specifies that grants can cover up to seventy-five percent (75%) of project costs on state, local or private lands, and up to 50% on federal lands, with matching funds required.
- Creates the Forest Health Grant Program Account to fund the program and appropriates funds to the account.
- Requires the Attorney General to review and approve all grants issued under the program.

Comments:

- Requires the State Forester to annually report to the Joint Agriculture, State and Public Lands and Water Resources Interim Committee not later than September 1 on all grants awarded under this act including the amounts of the grants and the projects the grants were authorized to fund.

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