



South Carolina Forestry Commission



Forestry in SC needs YOUR support to pass the Property and Firefighter Protection Bill

South Carolina needs H4082!

What is the Property and Firefighter Protection Bill (H4082)?

It is legislation that would greatly improve firefighter and public safety and resource protection in South Carolina!



Why does South Carolina need H4082?

Aging equipment must be replaced and diminished staffing levels must be restored to **protect lives, property, jobs, and natural resources** in South Carolina! State budget cuts have slashed the Forestry Commission's operating funds by more than **46%** since 2008. This has reduced the Commission's capacity to quickly respond to and suppress **wildfires**.



How does H4082 work?

The new law will transfer 7% of taxes already being collected on insurance premiums that currently go into the state's General Fund to the Forestry Commission to protect property, firefighters, the public, and grow the forest industry. Over the past 10 years, including the economic downturn, the average annual growth in these tax collections was 8.6%. Therefore, 7% will be a portion of the fund's average annual growth. At this rate, H4082 would generate more than \$8 million annually based on 2010-2011 tax collections and would restore Forestry Commission funding to the FY2007/2008 level. And the best part is, **THAT IT IS NOT A NEW TAX, AND IT WILL NOT TAKE FUNDS FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WHICH CURRENTLY RECEIVE DIRECT FUNDING FROM INSURANCE TAXES AND FEES.**



Did you know...

- Due to declining funding and changes in forestland ownership, the number of manned primary firefighting units in the state, both public and private, has dropped from about 240 ten years ago to 134, and continues to fall to even more dangerous levels.
- More than 30% of the manned units exceed the safe replacement age of 15 years.



What can I do to help pass H4082?

Contact your legislators! Let them know how important H4082 is to our entire state and ask for their support. For legislative contacts: <http://www.scstatehouse.gov>



House Bill 4082 Summary

A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 38-7-20, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE IMPOSITION OF THE INSURANCE PREMIUM TAX, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT SEVEN PERCENT OF THE ANNUAL REVENUE OF THIS TAX MUST BE TRANSFERRED TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA FORESTRY COMMISSION AND USED BY IT FOR FIREFIGHTING AND FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT AND FOREST INDUSTRY ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT.



Passage of this Bill is a critical step to recovering some of the funding needed by the Commission to protect firefighters, the public, the forest resource, and forest industry jobs.

Forestry is the state's #1 manufacturing segment with respect to jobs and wages, and provides a \$17.4 billion annual economic impact to the state.

This bill was introduced on April 13, 2011 during the 2011-2012 legislative session by Representatives Tracy Edge (Horry County) and Ted Vick (Chesterfield County). Representative Davey Hiott (Pickens County) signed on as a sponsor.

Forests in SC

13.1 million acres of forest land to protect

67% of the state's total land area

#1 Cash crop

90,000 Total jobs

\$4.1 Billion in wages

\$1.3 Billion in exports

Support Bill H4082 to help protect firefighters and South Carolina's forest resources.



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