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AB-417 Forest practices: resource conservation standards. (2015-2016)

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Assembly Bill No. 417

CHAPTER 182

An act to amend Section 4561.2 of the Public Resources Code, relating to forest practices.

[Approved by Governor August 12, 2015. Filed with Secretary of State August 12, 2015.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 417, Dahle. Forest practices: resource conservation standards.

The Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973 prohibits a person from conducting timber operations on timberland unless a timber harvesting plan has been prepared by a registered professional forester and has been submitted to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and approved by the Director of Forestry and Fire Protection or the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. Existing law establishes minimum acceptable stocking standards and provides that an area covered by a timber harvesting plan is considered acceptably stocked if either one of 2 conditions are met within 5 years after completion of timber operations: (1) that the area contains an average point count of 300 per acre, as provided, or (2) that the average residual basal area is at least 85 square feet per acre, as provided. Existing law requires the board to adopt stocking standards for each district, after a public hearing, that are equal to or stricter than the minimum standards. Existing law, notwithstanding the stocking conditions relating to areas with an average point count of 300 per acre, authorizes the board to adopt alternative stocking standards if those alternative standards reasonably address variables in forest characteristics and achieve suitable resource conservation, as provided.

This bill would extend the authorization to adopt alternative stocking standards notwithstanding the stocking conditions relating to the average residual basal area, as provided.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 4561.2 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:

4561.2. Notwithstanding Section 4561.1 or the resource conservation standards relating to stocking pursuant to Section 4561, the board may adopt alternative stocking standards that meet the purposes of Section 4561 if those alternative standards reasonably address the variables in forest characteristics, achieve suitable resource conservation, and contribute to specific forest health and ecological goals as defined by the board.