

2007 ASSEMBLY BILL 607

November 29, 2007 – Introduced by Representatives HAHN, WOOD, ALBERS, BALLWEG and MUSSER, cosponsored by Senator WIRCH. Referred to Committee on Biofuels and Sustainable Energy.

- 1 **AN ACT to create** 77.82 (1) (bg) of the statutes; **relating to:** wind turbines located
2 on land designated as managed forest land and granting rule-making
3 authority.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under the Managed Forest Land (MFL) Program, the owner of land that meets certain requirements as to size and the amount of timber on the land may apply to have the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) designate the land as MFL. The owner of such land then makes an annual payment that is lower than, and in lieu of, the property taxes that normally would be payable on the land. In exchange, the owner must comply with certain forestry practices and may keep a specific area closed to public access; the remainder of the land must be kept open for recreational activities consisting of hunting, fishing, hiking, sightseeing, and cross-country skiing. For land that the owner keeps closed to public access, the owner must pay a supplemental amount that is in addition to the annual payment described above (closed-land payment).

Among the forestry practices prohibited on land under the MFL program is development of the land for commercial recreation, for industry, or for any other use determined by DNR to be incompatible with the practice of forestry. This bill creates an exception to these restrictions by requiring DNR to allow land on which wind turbines are located to be eligible for designation as MFL. The bill specifies that the exception applies only if the wind turbines do not interfere with sound forestry

