

FOREST TRACK

The Legislative Resource
For Florida's Forest Community

Florida Forestry Association



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Several bills of great importance to the agriculture and forest industry sailed through the Senate and House Agriculture Committee's this week.

At the close of the second week of the 2010 session, the following is a brief look at the issues affecting the forest industry.

Greenbelt Clarification – SB 2182 by Sen. Alexander / HB 981 by Rep. Grimsley

This legislation clarifies that simply placing a parcel of agricultural property up for sale, shall not constitute a denial of greenbelt classification. SB 2182 was approved by the Senate Ag Committee and now goes to Community Affairs. Rep. Boyd amended HB 891 with our language and the Ag & Natural Resource Committee unanimously approved the bill.

Ag Industry Bill – SB 2074 by Sen. Peaden / HB 7103 by Rep. T. Williams

This legislation contains a number of provisions that are beneficial to agriculture and forestry practices. It includes language making the Ag Lands Practices Act retroactive, preempting all county ordinances regulating Ag or forestry practices beyond adopted BMP's; exempts ag lands from storm water management fees or assessments, if adopted BMP's are followed; exempts non-residential farm buildings & fences from permits or fees. Their respective Agriculture Committee's approved both bills and both are under review for the next committee of reference.

Truck Weight Increase – SB 2198 by Sen. Baker / HB 51 by Rep. Evers

This legislation has been filed, which will increase truck weights, for all carriers on non-federal highways, by adding a ten-percent tolerance (88,000 lbs) to the current 80,000-pound maximum. We anticipate the Senate Transportation Committee to agenda the bill next week.

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