

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 6669

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As of January 30, 1998

**Title:** An act relating to perpetual timber rights.

**Brief Description:** Allowing a holder of perpetual timber rights to sign a statement of intent not to convert the land to other uses for a period of time.

**Sponsors:** Senators Rossi and T. Sheldon.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Natural Resources & Parks: 2/3/98.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES & PARKS

**Staff:** Vic Moon (786-7469)

**Background:** The Legislature passed statutes changing the procedures for conversion of forest lands to other uses. In that statute, it was provided that a landowner had to commit to the intent that the lands would be kept in forest status. In the state of Washington, there are timber cutting rights and while they are not common, one company, Boise Cascade, has extensive timber cutting rights. This simply means that the company has rights to cut the timber but does not own the underlying land. By limiting the agreement in the statute for conversion to landowner, the timber right owner is not protected.

**Summary of Bill:** For the purposes of the state Forest Practices Act and in the case of an application of forest lands where timber rights have been transferred by a deed to a perpetual owner who is different from the landowner, the owner of the perpetual timber right may sign the statement of intent not to convert to a use other than commercial forest product operations for a set period of time.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.