

Department of Planning and Budget 2012 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB126

House of Origin	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: Watkins

3. Committee: Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

4. Title: Fumigation by Department of Forestry.

5. Summary: Directs the Department of Forestry's forest tree nurseries to continue to use methyl bromide gas fumigation in their pre-seeding land preparation under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's listed usage exemption QPS (Quarantine & Pre-Shipment). The bill also authorizes the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to issue an inspection certificate for intrastate and interstate shipments of conifers and hardwood seedlings to certify that they are apparently free of pests and diseases.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary.

8. Fiscal Implications: It is anticipated that the legislation will not have a fiscal impact. However, according to the Department of Forestry, inability to continue the use of methyl bromide gas fumigant would negatively impact the agency's nursery program, which is self-supporting, due to the loss of future forest tree seedling sales.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Departments of Forestry and Agriculture and Consumer Services.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: According to Forestry, alternatives to methyl bromide gas fumigants have been researched and tested for efficacy and none have been determined to prove efficacious against pests and pathogens for forest tree seedling nurseries.

In FY 2011, the sale of seedlings generated \$1.7 million in nongeneral fund revenue. In FY 2010, seedling sales generated \$1.6 million. The department sells approximately 87 percent of the seedlings sold in the Commonwealth.

HB239 also provides for the department's continued use of methyl bromide gas fumigation in their pre-seeding land preparation.

Date: 1/30/12