



Eric Vendel

Bill Analysis

Legislative Service Commission

H.B. 441

123rd General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Hollister, Cates, Householder, Wilson, Hood, Carey, Grendell, Jacobson, Trakas, Evans, Krebs, Flannery, Gooding, Roman, Bender, Buchy, Hoops, Terwilleger, Ogg, Aslanides, Vesper

BILL SUMMARY

- Removes the consent of Ohio given to the United States Forest Service to acquire land in specified counties in the area of the Wayne National Forest.
- Requires the Forest Service, rather than the affected board of county commissioners, to publish notice of its intent to acquire land and the location of the land.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

State's consent for acquisition of land by Forest Service

Ohio has statutorily given its consent to the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service for the acquisition, by purchase or gift, of lands in the state that the federal government determines may be needed for the establishment, consolidation, and extension of national forests and for flood control and soil conservation work in Ohio (see **COMMENT**). The bill removes that consent for the acquisition of land in the following counties, all of which are in the area of the Wayne National Forest: (1) Hocking, (2) Monroe, (3) Morgan, (4) Noble, (5) Perry, (6) Athens, (7) Gallia, (8) Washington, (9) Jackson, and (10) Lawrence (sec. 1503.32).

Notice of proposed acquisition

Under current law, the board of county commissioners must publish, in the Ohio newspaper of largest circulation in the county in which the land is located, notice of the intent of the Forest Service to acquire land and its location. The bill instead requires the Forest Service to publish the notice. (Sec. 1503.32.)

COMMENT

A federal law, commonly known as "Weeks Law," authorizes the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service to purchase property for national forests. However, that law requires the legislature of the state in which the land lies to consent to the acquisition of the land by the United States. (16 U.S.C. 515.)

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	09-14-99	pp. 1215-1216

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