

FISCAL NOTE

This bill establishes a process for the Environmental Quality Council (Council) to designate lands as having significant community value if the applying board of county commissioners demonstrates the parcel has historical, archaeological, wildlife, surface geological, or botanical features that are inconsistent with a proposed use for the land. If designated, the Board of Land Commissioners is unable to approve, via consent list, a lease, easement, or permit on the designated parcel. It is unknown how future projects may be affected by a designation of significant community value. As such, a loss of revenue is possible but cannot be defined or calculated.

The fiscal impact is indeterminable due to the unknown demand for this type of designation and the unknown number of hearings that would be required to accommodate such demand. It is probable that the proposed legislation would have a minimal impact and be implemented at no cost to the Council.

Assumptions:

The estimate assumes that a small number of applications for designation of state lands as defined by W.S. 36-1-101(a) as having significant community value would be made to the Council each year. A small number of applications could be scheduled for public hearings and added to the Council's regular quarterly meetings with little to no increase in costs. If the number of applications exceeds four per year, additional Council meetings would be required to accommodate the increase of public hearings. Any increase in cost would primarily relate to member compensation, increased preparation time, and potential travel. The Council budget operates with limited budget flexibility, any significant increase in payroll or travel expenses substantially affecting the Council's budget.

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