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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 03/07/09

SPONSOR Beffort LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Maximize Use of Biodegradable Wood Chips SM 60

ANALYST Baca

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Memorial 60 requests the Department of Environment convene a meeting to develop a plan to maximize the use of biodegradable wood chips for the betterment of the environment. The memorial further requests that representatives from counties, municipalities and green-oriented businesses and organizations be invited to participate in the development of the plan. A copy of this memorial is to be transmitted to the Secretary of Environment.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None detected other than the costs to convene the meeting, development of the plan and dissemination of information necessary to carry out the intent of the memorial.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

SM 60 indicates that:

- each year, millions of pounds of tree branches and debris are sent through chippers and made into wood mulch;
- these chips are reusable as mulch and help to create healthier soil when plowed into the earth;
- when spread on top of the ground, these wood chips hold in moisture and create a weed barrier;

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- much of the volume of wood chips that is currently deposited at local landfills is being used as waste and could be used more productively in cities and communities;
- the potential exists for green-oriented businesses to serve as central distribution units or as entities holding wood chips for pickup by homeowners for their personal use; and
- state agencies can and should use these chips along roadsides, in parks and for other landscaping projects.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

To carry out the intent of SM 60, the Department of Environment will have to implement the activities with existing resources.

LRB/svb