



**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS**  
2008-09 Legislative Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

**HOUSE BILL: 481**

**PRINTER'S NO: 533**

**PRIME SPONSOR: Hanna**

| <b>FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY</b>            | <b>FY 2008/09</b> | <b>FY 2009/10</b> |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Expenditure Increase/(Decrease):</b> |                   |                   |
| General Fund                            | \$0               | \$0               |

**OVERVIEW:**

House Bill 481 amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) by further providing for restitution amounts related to theft of timber.

Title 18 is amended by increasing the restitution amount that must be paid by an individual convicted of theft of standing timber from twice the value of the timber to six times the value of the timber stolen.

Title 42 is amended by increasing the damages awarded when a person cuts or removes the timber of another person without consent. This legislation would increase the amount of damages from two to four times the market value of the cut or removed timber if the act is determined to be deliberate. This bill also increases the amount of damages from two to four times the market value of cut or removed timber if the act is determined to have been negligent.

This act takes effect in 60 days.

**ANALYSIS:**

The enactment of House Bill 841 is not expected to have a negative fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds.

**PREPARED BY:** Rayko Pacana, Budget Analyst  
House Appropriations Committee, (D)

**DATE:** April 20, 2009

**General Note and Disclaimer:** *This Fiscal Note was prepared pursuant to House Rule 19(a), and the elements considered and reported above are required by Section 5 of the rule. Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.*