



HOUSE BILL 708: Preservation of Historic/Heritage Trees

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee:	House Local Government, if favorable, Environment, if favorable, Regulatory Reform	Date:	April 29, 2015
Introduced by:	Reps. Hamilton, Torbett	Prepared by:	Wendy Graf Ray Kristen Harris Committee Counsel
Analysis of:	First Edition		

SUMMARY: *House Bill 708 would amend the law to require consideration of a tree's historic or heritage designation prior to State action being taken that may affect the tree.*

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1 would amend the law to allow for discussion and possible resolution between cities and the State regarding potentially harmful action by the State to trees designated by the city as historic or heritage. Prior to approving any State funds or State action, the heads of State agencies or departments or independent agencies with State approval authority, would be required to take into account the effect of the undertaking on any tree designated by a city as historic or heritage.

If a city believed a State undertaking would have an effect on a designated tree, the State would be required to give the city reasonable opportunity to comment on the undertaking.

A city would be required to act with reasonable diligence to keep State departments and agencies affected by the provisions of the section informed of the particulars of designated trees. The State would be required to furnish each affected city with information required to implement this section.

Section 2 would amend the law to apply the provisions of Section 1 to counties as well as cities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to actions taken by State Departments, boards, commissions, and agencies on or after that date.

O. Walker Reagan
Director



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