

**BILL SUMMARY**  
1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 55<sup>th</sup> Legislature

<b>Bill No.:</b>	<b>HB1075</b>
<b>Version:</b>	<b>FA1</b>
<b>Request Number:</b>	<b>5060</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Rep. Morrisette</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>3/10/2015</b>
<b>Impact:</b>	<b>DEQ: 1 FTE, associated expenses, and travel costs</b>

**Research Analysis**

Pending

Prepared By: Marcia Goff

**Fiscal Analysis**

FA1 on HB 1075 authorizes DEQ to receive funding from private sources (such as private foundations, and grants from any state or federal entity) to provide all or part of the funding for the salary and other expenses of the Coordinator. These funds will be directed to the Eastern Red Cedar Revolving Fund. This is a revolving fund currently under the Dept. of Ag which will be transferred to the Department of Environmental Quality. DEQ will be allowed to use not more than 1% of the fund for administrative costs for the Coordinator per year for not more than a total of 5 years.

According to DEQ:

The House Floor Version of HB 1075, as proposed to be amended by two floor amendments dated March 10, would replace the Eastern Red Cedar Advisory Board with an Eastern Red Cedar Coordinator (ERCC). The ERCC would be in the Department of Environmental Quality. The bill specifies that the salary for the ERCC will be \$30,000 to \$40,000. With a salary of \$30,000 to \$40,000, total compensation costs for the ERCC position itself will be approximately \$50,000 to \$60,000. Administrative support costs are difficult to estimate at this point, but DEQ assumes that at least some portion of another FTE would be needed, along with normal office expenses. It appears that total program costs will be well in excess of \$60,000 per annum, at a minimum.

Funding for the position – for both ERCC compensation and the costs of administrative support – is to come in whole or in part from monies in the Eastern Red Cedar Revolving Fund (ERCRF). DEQ understands that currently the Revolving Fund contains approximately \$10,000. The bill caps expenditures for administrative support at 1% of the amount in the ERCRF, and sunsets that after five years. The bill authorizes various potential sources of income for the ERCRF, such as donations and grants, but makes no appropriation. Based on the current balance the ERCRF does not provide sufficient funding for the ERCC position and would provide only about \$100 for administrative expenses, and it is unclear whether and when additional funding might become available.

There will also be travel expenses for the Woody Biomass Energy Initiative Council.

Prepared By: Kristina King

**Other Considerations**

None.

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