

HB 554 -- STATE LANDS

SPONSOR: Ross

This bill prohibits state agencies except the Department of Transportation or the Highways and Transportation Commission from purchasing or receiving donated land without approval of the General Assembly.

Currently, all lands and other property belonging to the state is exempt from property tax. This bill would remove the exemption for real property that belongs to the Department of Natural Resources.

Currently, the Conservation Commission must pay not less than \$.50 per acre per year in lieu of property taxes to the county in which forest croplands used by the commission are situated. This bill raises that minimum payment to not less than \$.90 per acre per year.

This bill contains a severability clause.

This bill is the same as HB 2670 (2016).