



General Assembly

January Session, 2003

Raised Bill No. 6556

LCO No. 3876

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING FORESTRY MANAGEMENT.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 23-20 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2003*):

3 The Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall administer the
4 statutes relating to forestry and the protection of forests. [He] The
5 commissioner may employ such field and office assistants as may be
6 necessary for the execution of [his] the commissioner's duties. [He] The
7 commissioner may, from time to time, publish the forestry laws of the
8 state and other literature of general interest and practical value
9 pertaining to forestry. [He] The commissioner may enter into
10 cooperation with departments of the federal government for the
11 promotion of forest resource management and protection within the
12 state. [He] The commissioner may with the assistance of the State
13 Forester develop and administer plans for the protection and
14 management of publicly-owned woodlands. Such plans shall include,
15 but not be limited to, proposals for the establishment of forest
16 plantations and the marketing of forest products. [He] The
17 commissioner shall apply to have products from state woodlands

18 certified as Smart Wood by the Rainforest Alliance and implement any
19 sustainable forestry practice necessary for such certification. The
20 commissioner may accept any gifts, donations or bequests for the
21 purpose of applying for and obtaining such certification. The
22 commissioner may harvest forest products from woodlands owned by
23 the state and take such other measures [as he] the commissioner deems
24 necessary for their efficient management and protection, may sell
25 wood, timber and other products from any state woodlands whenever
26 [he] the commissioner deems such sales desirable and may develop
27 recreational facilities in the woodlands managed by the Department of
28 Environmental Protection. [He] The commissioner shall charge no less
29 than ten dollars per cord for any such wood or timber sold as fuel.
30 [He] The commissioner may rent state forest property and buildings
31 thereon under [his] the commissioner's jurisdiction for a period not
32 exceeding twenty-five years, provided any lease for such property and
33 building for a term of more than ten years shall be subject to the
34 review and approval of the State Properties Review Board. The
35 proceeds of such sales, rentals and any receipts resulting from
36 management of the state forests, or from reimbursements from other
37 state departments or state institutions, shall be deposited in the
38 General Fund in accordance with the provisions of section 4-32,
39 provided the amount of annual proceeds in excess of eight hundred
40 thousand dollars, derived from the sale of wood, timber and other
41 products from state woodlands, shall be deposited in the Conservation
42 Fund, as established in section 22a-27h. Expenditures incurred by the
43 commissioner for the protection, management and development of the
44 forests, the preparation and marketing of forest products and the
45 acquisition of land for the extension and completion of the state forests
46 as provided in section 23-21 shall be paid with moneys appropriated
47 from the General Fund. The provisions of this section shall not apply
48 to land owned or managed by the state on which forest resource
49 management measures may be restricted by deed, statute, or
50 incompatible use. As used in this section, woodland means land
51 owned or managed by a state agency and stocked with forest tree

52 species not less than six hundred stems per acre and at least one year
53 old.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2003</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To encourage sustainable forestry management of state woodlands while generating funds for the protection of such lands.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]