



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5588

February Session, 2004

* HB05588ENV 031604 *

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 Section 23-20 of the general statutes is repealed and the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, 2004*):

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 or her duties. [He] The commissioner
7 may, from time to time, publish the forestry laws of the state and other
8 literature of general interest and practical value pertaining to forestry.
9 [He] The commissioner may enter into cooperation with departments
10 of the federal government for the promotion of forest resource
11 management and protection within the state. [He] The commissioner
12 may, with the assistance of the State Forester, develop and administer
13 plans for the protection and management of publicly-owned
14 woodlands. Such plans shall include, but not be limited to proposals
15 for the establishment of forest plantations and the marketing of forest
16 products. [He] The commissioner may apply to have publicly-owned
17 woodlands or products from such woodlands certified or licensed
18 under one or more of the following, provided the commissioner uses
19 private funding from gifts, donations or bequests, as authorized in this
20 section, for the cost of all such applications: (1) The sustainable

21 Forestry Initiative Program, (2) the American Tree Farm System, (3) the
22 Canadian Standards Association's Sustainable Management System
23 Standards, (4) the Finnish Standard, (5) the Forest Stewardship
24 Council, (6) the Pan-European Forest Certification Program, (7) the
25 Swedish Standards, (8) the United Kingdom Woodland Assurance
26 Scheme, or (9) the Smart Wood Program, as administered by the
27 Rainforest Alliance. The commissioner shall implement any
28 sustainable forestry practice necessary for such certification or
29 licensure. The commissioner may accept, on behalf of the Department
30 of Environmental Protection, any gifts, donations or bequests for the
31 purposes of applying for and obtaining such certification or licensure.
32 The commissioner may harvest forest products from woodlands
33 owned by the state and take such other measures as he or she deems
34 necessary for their efficient management and protection, may sell
35 wood, timber and other products from any state woodlands whenever
36 he or she deems such sales desirable and may develop recreational
37 facilities in the woodlands managed by the Department of
38 Environmental Protection. [He] The commissioner shall charge no less
39 than ten dollars per cord for any such wood or timber sold as fuel.
40 [He] The commissioner may rent state forest property and buildings
41 thereon under his or her jurisdiction for a period not exceeding
42 twenty-five years, provided any lease for such property and building
43 for a term of more than ten years shall be subject to the review and
44 approval of the State Properties Review Board. The proceeds of such
45 sales, rentals and any receipts resulting from management of the state
46 forests, or from reimbursements from other state departments or state
47 institutions, shall be deposited in the General Fund in accordance with
48 the provisions of section 4-32, provided the amount of annual proceeds
49 in excess of eight hundred seventy-five thousand dollars derived from
50 the sale of wood, timber and other products from publicly-owned
51 woodlands shall be deposited in the Conservation Fund, as established
52 in section 22a-27h. Expenditures incurred by the commissioner for the
53 protection, management and development of the forests, the
54 preparation and marketing of forest products and the acquisition of
55 land for the extension and completion of the state forests as provided

56 in section 23-21 shall be paid with moneys appropriated from the
57 General Fund. The provisions of this section shall not apply to land
58 owned or managed by the state on which forest resource management
59 measures may be restricted by deed, statute, or incompatible use. As
60 used in this section, woodland means land owned or managed by a
61 state agency and stocked with forest tree species not less than six
62 hundred stems per acre and at least one year old.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2004</i>

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*