



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5853**

February Session, 2008

\*            HB05853ENV            031708            \*

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE ALLOCATION OF STATE FOREST  
TIMBER SALES, THIRD-PARTY CERTIFICATION FOR CONNECTICUT  
STATE FORESTS AND A SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT  
PLAN.**

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 Section 23-20 of the general statutes is repealed and the  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 from passage*):

3       The Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall administer the  
4 statutes relating to forestry and the protection of forests. The  
5 commissioner may employ such field and office assistants as may be  
6 necessary for the execution of his or her duties. 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       The commissioner may enter into cooperation with departments of the  
10 federal government for the promotion of forest resource management  
11 and protection within the state. The commissioner may, with the  
12 assistance of the State Forester, develop and administer plans for the  
13 protection and management of publicly-owned woodlands. Such plans  
14 shall include, but not be limited to proposals for the establishment of  
15 forest plantations and the marketing of forest products. [The] Not later  
16 than January 10, 2010, the commissioner [may] shall apply to have  
17 publicly-owned woodlands or products from such woodlands certified  
18 or licensed under one or more of the following, provided the

19 commissioner uses private funding from gifts, donations or bequests,  
20 as authorized in this section, for the cost of all such applications: (1)  
21 The [sustainable] Sustainable Forestry Initiative Program, (2) the  
22 American Tree Farm System, (3) the Canadian Standards Association's  
23 Sustainable Management System Standards, (4) the Finnish Standard,  
24 (5) the Forest Stewardship Council, (6) the Pan-European Forest  
25 Certification Program, (7) the Swedish Standards, (8) the United  
26 Kingdom Woodland Assurance Scheme, [or] (9) the Smart Wood  
27 Program, as administered by the Rainforest Alliance, or (10) any other  
28 programs deemed necessary, as determined by the commissioner. The  
29 commissioner shall implement any sustainable forestry practice  
30 necessary for such certification or licensure. The commissioner may  
31 accept, on behalf of the Department of Environmental Protection, any  
32 gifts, donations or bequests for the purposes of applying for and  
33 obtaining such certification or licensure. The commissioner may  
34 harvest forest products from woodlands owned by the state and take  
35 such other measures as he or she deems necessary for their efficient  
36 management and protection, may sell wood, timber and other  
37 products from any state woodlands whenever he or she deems such  
38 sales desirable and may develop recreational facilities in the  
39 woodlands managed by the Department of Environmental Protection.  
40 The commissioner shall charge no less than ten dollars per cord for any  
41 such wood or timber sold as fuel. The commissioner may rent state  
42 forest property and buildings thereon under his or her jurisdiction for  
43 a period not exceeding twenty-five years, provided any lease for such  
44 property and building for a term of more than ten years shall be  
45 subject to the review and approval of the State Properties Review  
46 Board. The proceeds of such sales, rentals and any receipts resulting  
47 from management of the state forests, or from reimbursements from  
48 other state departments or state institutions, shall be deposited in the  
49 General Fund in accordance with the provisions of section 4-32,  
50 provided the [amount of annual proceeds in excess of eight hundred  
51 seventy-five thousand] first one million dollars derived from the sale  
52 of wood, timber and other products from publicly-owned woodlands  
53 shall be deposited in the Conservation Fund, as established in section

54 22a-27h and shall be used only to support forestry programs.  
55 Expenditures incurred by the commissioner for the protection,  
56 management and development of the forests, the preparation and  
57 marketing of forest products and the acquisition of land for the  
58 extension and completion of the state forests as provided in section 23-  
59 21 [shall] may also be paid with moneys appropriated from the  
60 General Fund. The provisions of this section shall not apply to land  
61 owned or managed by the state on which forest resource management  
62 measures may be restricted by deed, statute, or incompatible use. As  
63 used in this section, woodland means land owned or managed by a  
64 state agency and stocked with forest tree species not less than six  
65 hundred stems per acre and at least one year old.

66 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) On or before July 1, 2009,  
67 the Department of Environmental Protection shall, in consultation with  
68 the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, The University of  
69 Connecticut and any other entities deemed appropriate by said  
70 commissioner, complete a study regarding sustainable harvesting of  
71 forests in this state.

72 (b) The Department of Environmental Protection, in consultation  
73 with the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, The University  
74 of Connecticut and any other such entities deemed appropriate by said  
75 commissioner, shall develop a sustainable forest harvesting plan based  
76 on the results of the study completed pursuant to subsection (a) of this  
77 section. The plan shall take into account carbon credit opportunities,  
78 the potential for maintaining a sustainable supply of biomass fuels,  
79 and the agricultural and silvicultural capability of the region.

80 (c) Not later than July 1, 2009, the Commissioner of Environmental  
81 Protection shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-  
82 4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the  
83 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the  
84 environment the conclusions of the study completed pursuant to  
85 subsection (a) of this section.

86      Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) The sum of two hundred thousand  
87 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Environmental  
88 Protection, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30,  
89 2009, to implement the provisions of section 2 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	23-20
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**ENV**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*