



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5853

February Session, 2008

* HB05853APP 041508 *

**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 Section 23-20 of the general statutes is repealed and the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, within existing
68 budgetary resources and in consultation with the Connecticut
69 Agricultural Experiment Station, The University of Connecticut and
70 any other entities deemed appropriate by said commissioner, complete
71 a study regarding sustainable harvesting of 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.

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

APP *Joint Favorable Subst.*