



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Raised Bill No. 6551

LCO No. 3906

03906 _____ ENV

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING STATE FORESTRY PROGRAMS.

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 Section 23-20 of the general statutes is repealed and the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. Not later than
16 January 10, 2010, the commissioner shall 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, (9) the Smart Wood Program, as administered by the
27 Rainforest Alliance, or (10) any other programs deemed necessary, as
28 determined by the commissioner. The commissioner shall implement
29 any sustainable forestry practice necessary for such certification or
30 licensure. The commissioner may accept, on behalf of the Department
31 of Environmental Protection, any gifts, donations or bequests for the
32 purposes of applying for and obtaining such certification or licensure.
33 The commissioner may harvest forest products from woodlands
34 owned by the state and take such other measures as he or she deems
35 necessary for their efficient management and protection, may sell
36 wood, timber and other products from any state woodlands whenever
37 he or she deems such sales desirable and may develop recreational
38 facilities in the woodlands managed by the Department of
39 Environmental Protection. The commissioner shall charge no less than
40 [ten] twenty five dollars per cord for any such wood or timber sold as
41 fuel. The commissioner may rent state forest property and buildings
42 thereon under his or her jurisdiction for a period not exceeding
43 twenty-five years, provided any lease for such property and building
44 for a term of more than ten years shall be subject to the review and
45 approval of the State Properties Review Board. The proceeds of such
46 sales, rentals and any receipts resulting from management of the state
47 forests, or from reimbursements from other state departments or state
48 institutions, shall be deposited in the [General Fund in accordance
49 with the provisions of section 4-32] Conservation Fund established
50 under section 22a-27h, provided the amount of annual proceeds in

51 excess of six hundred thousand dollars derived from the sale of wood,
52 timber and other products from publicly owned woodlands shall be
53 deposited in the [Conservation Fund, as established in section 22a-27h]
54 General Fund 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 may also be paid with moneys appropriated from the General Fund.
60 The provisions of this section shall not apply to land owned or
61 managed by the state on which forest resource management measures
62 may be restricted by deed, statute, or incompatible use. As used in this
63 section, woodland means land owned or managed by a state agency
64 and stocked with forest tree species not less than six hundred stems
65 per acre and at least one year old.

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

Statement of Purpose:

To support forestry programs in the state.

[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.]