



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6551

January Session, 2009

* HB06551FIN 041709 *

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 Section 23-20 of the general statutes is repealed and the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 in noncommercial sales of such wood or timber. The
42 commissioner may rent state forest property and buildings thereon
43 under his or her jurisdiction for a period not exceeding twenty-five
44 years, provided any lease for such property and building for a term of
45 more than ten years shall be subject to the review and approval of the
46 State Properties Review Board. The proceeds of such sales, rentals and
47 any receipts resulting from management of the state forests, or from
48 reimbursements from other state departments or state institutions,
49 shall be deposited in the General Fund in accordance with the
50 provisions of section 4-32, provided the amount of annual proceeds in
51 excess of [six] four hundred thousand dollars derived from the sale of
52 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,

