

1 H.93

2 Introduced by Representative Branagan of Georgia

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Conservation and development; department of forests, parks and
6 recreation; leasing state forestland; maple sugar production

7 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to require the department of forests,
8 parks and recreation to license state forestland for maple sugar production and
9 collection.

10 An act relating to leasing state forestland for maple sugar production

11 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

12 Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 2606b is added to read:

13 § 2606b. LICENSE OF FORESTLANDS FOR MAPLE SUGAR

14 PRODUCTION

15 (a) The general assembly finds and declares that:

16 (1) maple sugaring is an important cultural tradition of Vermont life that
17 should be maintained and encouraged;

18 (2) maple sugaring is an important component of the agricultural
19 economy in Vermont and is increasingly necessary for farmers that must
20 diversify in order to continue to farm in Vermont;

1 (3) maple sugaring is a sustainable use of forestland;

2 (4) state forestland should be managed and used for multiple uses

3 including maple sugar production;

4 (5) it is hereby adopted as state policy to permit limited use of

5 designated state-owned land under the jurisdiction of the department for maple

6 sugar production.

7 (b) Beginning on January 15, 2010, the department shall issue up to five
8 licenses annually for use of state forestland for the tapping of maple trees, the
9 collection of maple sap, and the right to transport such sap to a processing site
10 located off state forest land. All tapping of maple trees authorized under a
11 license shall be conducted according to the guidelines for tapping maple trees
12 agreed to by the department and the Vermont maple sugar makers' association.
13 Each person awarded a license under this section shall maintain and repair any
14 road, water crossing, or work area according to requirements set by the
15 department in the license. Each license shall include such additional terms and
16 conditions set by the department as may be necessary to preserve forest health
17 and to assure compliance with the requirements of this chapter and applicable
18 rules. A license shall be issued for a fixed term not to exceed five years and
19 shall be renewable for two five-year terms subsequent to the initial license.
20 The department shall have power to terminate or modify a license for cause,

1 including damage to forest health. The fee for a license issued under this
2 section shall be \$0.80 per maple tap.

3 (c) The commissioner may adopt rules to implement the requirements of
4 this section.