

1 H.142

2 Introduced by Representative Johnson of Canaan

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Conservation and development; harvesting guidelines and  
6 procurement standards; forest management plans; Use Value  
7 Appraisal Program

8 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to repeal  
9 10 V.S.A. § 2750(b), thereby removing a directive that the Commissioner of  
10 Forests, Parks and Recreation require, for the lands in the Use Value Appraisal  
11 Program, preapproval of whole-tree harvesting and compliance with forest  
12 health guidelines.

13 An act relating to repealing certain requirements for forestlands in the Use  
14 Value Appraisal Program

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

16 Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 2750 is amended to read:

17 § 2750. HARVESTING GUIDELINES AND PROCUREMENT

18 STANDARDS

19 (a) The ~~secretary of natural resources~~ Secretary of Natural Resources shall  
20 develop voluntary harvesting guidelines that may be used by private

1 landowners to help ensure long-term forest health. These guidelines shall  
2 address harvesting that is specifically for wood energy purposes, as well as  
3 other harvesting. The ~~secretary~~ Secretary may also recommend monitoring  
4 regimes as part of these guidelines.

5 (b) ~~The commissioner of forests, parks and recreation (the commissioner)~~  
6 ~~shall adopt rules or procedures to modify the process of approving forest~~  
7 ~~management plans and forest practices for lands enrolled in the use value~~  
8 ~~appraisal program, established under 32 V.S.A. chapter 124, in order to~~  
9 ~~address long term forest health and sustainability. These modifications shall~~  
10 ~~include requirements for preapproval by the commissioner or designee of~~  
11 ~~whole tree harvesting and for applying the guidelines developed under~~  
12 ~~subsection (a) of this section to harvesting on lands enrolled in the use value~~  
13 ~~appraisal program. [Repealed.]~~

14 (c) For contracts to harvest wood products on state lands, the ~~commissioner~~  
15 ~~of forests, parks and recreation~~ Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation  
16 shall ensure all such harvests are consistent with the purpose of the guidelines  
17 developed under subsection (a) of this section, with the objective being long-  
18 term forest health in addition to other management objectives.

19 (d) The ~~secretary of natural resources~~ Secretary of Natural Resources shall  
20 develop a procurement standard that shall be used by the ~~commissioner of~~  
21 ~~buildings and general services~~ Commissioner of Buildings and General

1 Services in procuring wood products, including biomass for energy in state  
2 buildings. All state agencies and departments that use wood energy shall  
3 comply with this procurement standard. The procurement standard shall  
4 include the voluntary forest health guidelines developed pursuant to subsection  
5 (a) of this section. The procurement standard shall recommend methods to:

6 (1) assure compliance with those forest health guidelines and applicable  
7 laws; and

8 (2) obtain review of potential impacts to natural resources such as rare,  
9 threatened, or endangered species, wetlands, wildlife habitat, natural  
10 communities, and forest health and sustainability as defined by the  
11 ~~commissioner of forests, parks and recreation~~ Commissioner of Forests, Parks  
12 and Recreation in consultation with the ~~commissioner of fish and wildlife~~  
13 Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife.

14 (e) The procurement standard developed under subsection (d) of this  
15 section shall be made available to Vermont educational institutions and other  
16 users of biomass energy for their voluntary use.

17 (f) Working with regional governmental organizations, such as the New  
18 England Governors' Conference, Inc. and the Coalition of Northeastern  
19 Governors, the ~~secretary of natural resources~~ Secretary of Natural Resources  
20 shall seek to develop and implement regional voluntary harvesting guidelines  
21 and a model procurement standard that can be implemented regionwide,

1 consistent with the application of the guidelines, rules, procedures, and  
2 standards developed under subsections (a), ~~(b)~~, and (d) of this section.

3 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

4 This act shall take effect on passage.