

Act No. 112 (H.799). Agriculture; forestry; firewood importation; invasive species

An act relating to the importation of firewood

This act requires the Commissioner of Forests, Parks, and Recreation to adopt on or before July 1, 2015 rules regulating the importation of firewood into the State.

“Firewood” means untreated or treated wood processed for residential, recreational, or commercial use in any wood-burning appliance or fireplace, either indoor or outdoor, that is cut to a length less than 48 inches, either split or unsplit. “Firewood” shall not mean wood chips, wood pellets, pulpwood, logs 48 inches or more in length, or other wood sold or transported for manufacturing purposes.

The rules shall address several issues, including: whether certain types of untreated firewood should be prohibited from importation due to the potential to spread invasive species; whether a treatment certificate or other approval should be required for imported firewood; whether sellers or producers of firewood in the State should be required to track purchases of imported firewood in order to identify sources of invasive species; and a process by which the Commissioner may waive the ban on firewood importation if a waiver is in the public interest and poses minimal threat to forest health. A violation of the rule regarding importation of firewood shall be a civil citation with a maximum penalty of \$3,000.00.

Effective Date: July 1, 2014