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H.799

Introduced by Representatives Stevens of Shoreham, Browning of Arlington,
Buxton of Tunbridge, Conquest of Newbury, Higley of Lowell,
Malcolm of Pawlet, Marcotte of Coventry, Moran of
Wardsboro, Potter of Clarendon, Ralston of Middlebury, Webb
of Shelburne, and Weed of Enosburgh

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Conservation and development; forest resources; forest products

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the
Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation to adopt rules regulating the
importation of untreated firewood into Vermont.

An act relating to the importation of untreated firewood

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

Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. chapter 83, subchapter 8 is added to read:

Subchapter 8. Importation of Firewood

§ 2681. IMPORTATION OF FIREWOOD; PROTECTION FROM

INVASIVE PESTS

(a) Definitions. As used in this section:

1 (1) “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and
2 Recreation.

3 (2) “Department” means the Department of Forests, Parks and
4 Recreation.

5 (3) “Firewood” means wood that is sold or transported for residential
6 consumption in fireplaces, woodstoves, outdoor fireplaces, or campfire.

7 “Firewood” shall not mean wood chips, wood pellets, fuel for biomass boilers,
8 pulpwood, or other wood sold or transported for manufacturing purposes.

9 (b) Rulemaking. On or before July 1, 2015, the Commissioner, after
10 consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, shall adopt
11 rules regulating the importation of firewood into the State. The rules shall
12 address:

13 (1) whether certain types of firewood should be prohibited from
14 importation due to the potential to spread invasive species;

15 (2) whether a health certificate or some other approval shall be required
16 to import firewood;

17 (3) whether persons who produce or sell firewood in the State shall be
18 required to track purchases of firewood from out of State in order to allow for
19 identification of sources of invasive species; and

1 (4) any other issue the Commissioner identifies as necessary for
2 preventing the importation of invasive species into the State when importing
3 firewood.

4 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

5 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.