

1 H.799

2 Representative Ralston of Middlebury moves that the bill be amended by
3 striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the
4 following:

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

6 Subchapter 8. Importation of Firewood

7 § 2681. IMPORTATION OF FIREWOOD; PROTECTION FROM

8 INVASIVE PESTS

9 (a) Definitions. As used in this section:

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

12 (2) “Department” means the Department of Forests, Parks and
13 Recreation.

14 (3) “Firewood” means untreated or treated wood processed for
15 residential, recreational, or commercial use in any wood-burning appliance or
16 fireplace, either indoor or outdoor, that is cut to a length less than 48 inches,
17 either split or unsplit. “Firewood” shall not mean wood chips, wood pellets,
18 pulpwood, logs over eight feet in length, or other wood sold or transported for
19 manufacturing purposes.

20 (4) “Invasive species” means:

1 (A) nonnative plant pests that are capable of spreading into the State
2 and that threaten forest health; and

3 (B) native plant pests, designated by the Commissioner, that are
4 present in the State, that are capable of spreading to new areas of the State, and
5 that threaten forest health.

6 (5) “Plant pests” shall be defined as in 6 V.S.A. § 1030(12).

7 (6) “Treated firewood” means firewood that has been processed and
8 treated in a manner sufficient to prevent invasive species from surviving in
9 transit.

10 (7) “Untreated firewood” means firewood that is not treated firewood.

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

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

17 (2) whether a treatment certificate or some other approval shall be
18 required to import firewood from one or more states;

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

- 1 (4) whether the State should design and implement a voluntary
2 certification for treated firewood; and
3 (5) any other issue the Commissioner identifies as necessary for
4 preventing the importation of invasive species into the State when importing
5 firewood.

6 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

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