

1 S.222

2 Introduced by Senator Lyons

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation; forests; wood heat;
6 sustainable forestry; wood energy forester

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create a wood
8 energy forester position in the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation to
9 coordinate efforts to promote wood heat energy in a manner that protects forest
10 health and sustainability.

11 An act relating to creating a wood energy forester position

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

13 Sec. 1. PURPOSE

14 The State of Vermont has critical interests in the continued vitality of its
15 forests and in the harvesting of wood products for energy generation in a
16 manner that is consistent with ensuring forest health and sustainability and that
17 promotes the State's goals to reduce its emissions of greenhouse gases and
18 employ renewable energy. This act establishes a statutory wood energy
19 forester position to provide capability to advance these critical interests.

1 Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 2752 is added to read:

2 § 2752. WOOD ENERGY FORESTER

3 The Commissioner shall employ a wood energy forester. The Wood
4 Energy Forester shall coordinate efforts to advance the use of wood heat in a
5 manner that protects the health and sustainability of Vermont's forests and
6 reduces Vermont's greenhouse gas emissions. The Wood Energy Forester
7 shall aid the Commissioner in developing, revising, implementing, and
8 ensuring compliance with the procurement standard established in
9 subsection 2750(c) of this title and in the establishment and implementation of
10 biomass renewability standards under section 2751 of this title. The
11 Commissioner may assign additional duties to the Forester that do not conflict
12 with the duties established in this section.

13 Sec. 3. DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS, PARKS AND RECREATION;

14 POSITION

15 The following classified position is created within the Department of
16 Forests, Parks and Recreation: one permanent full-time Wood Energy
17 Forester, pay grade 24.

18 Sec. 4. APPROPRIATION

19 The sum of \$110,000.00 is appropriated to the Department of Forests, Parks
20 and Recreation from the General Fund for fiscal year 2017 for the purpose of
21 Secs. 2 and 3 of this act.

1 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

2 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.