

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred House  
3 Bill No. 355 entitled “An act relating to licensing and regulating foresters”  
4 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the  
5 Senate propose to the House that the bill be amended as follows:

6 First: In Sec. 2, in 26 V.S.A. § 4912 (advisor appointees), in subdivision  
7 (a)(1), in the first sentence, following “shall appoint three” by striking out  
8 “licensed”

9 Second: By striking out Sec. 3 (transitional provision; advisors; licensing  
10 of current foresters) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 3 to  
11 read:

12 Sec. 3. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS; ADVISOR APPOINTEES;

13 LICENSING OF CURRENT FORESTERS

14 (a) Advisor appointees. Notwithstanding the provision of 26 V.S.A.  
15 § 4912 in Sec. 2 of this act that requires an advisor appointee to be a licensed  
16 forester in Vermont, an initial advisor appointee may be in the process of  
17 applying for licensure as a forester in this State if he or she otherwise is  
18 eligible for licensure as a forester under this act.

19 (b) Licensing of current foresters.

20 (1) The Director of the Office of Professional Regulation shall establish  
21 a procedure whereby an individual who can demonstrate a record of full-time

1 forestry practice in this State for at least eight of the ten years immediately  
2 preceding the effective date of Sec. 2 this act may become licensed as a  
3 forester:

4 (A) without examination, if he or she possesses one of the degrees  
5 described in 26 V.S.A. § 4921(1)–(3) (qualifications for licensure) in Sec. 2 of  
6 this act;

7 (B) without possessing a degree described in 26 V.S.A.  
8 § 4921(1)–(3) in Sec. 2 of this act, if he or she passes the Society of American  
9 Foresters (SAF) Certified Forester Examination, which may include a State  
10 portion if required by the Director by rule; or

11 (C) without examination or possession of one of the degrees  
12 described in 26 V.S.A. § 4921(1)–(3) in Sec. 2 of this act, if he or she is  
13 determined by the Director, after due consultation with the advisor appointees,  
14 to have demonstrated through a peer-review process and production of such  
15 documentation as the Director may require, that he or she possesses forestry  
16 competencies commensurate to those of an individual eligible for licensure  
17 pursuant to Sec. 2 of this act.

18 (2) In addition to the ability of an individual to become licensed as a  
19 forester under the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, an  
20 individual shall be eligible for expedited licensure if he or she is an SAF  
21 Certified Forester, active and in good standing.

1           (3) Any person licensed under this section shall thereafter be eligible for  
2           license renewal pursuant to 26 V.S.A. § 4924.

3           (4) The ability of a person to become licensed under the provisions of  
4           this section shall expire on January 1, 2018.

5           Third: In Sec. 4 (effective dates), at the end of the sentence, by striking out  
6           “January 1, 2016” and inserting in lieu thereof July 1, 2016

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9           (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Senator \_\_\_\_\_

FOR THE COMMITTEE