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**Act No. 171 (H.673). Municipal government; municipal officers; tree wardens**

**An act relating to tree wardens**

This act amends the statutes governing municipal tree wardens and the cutting, trimming, or removal of shade trees to:

- authorize the legislative body of a municipality to appoint a tree warden who is not a resident of the municipality;
- define “hazard tree,” “public place,” “public way,” and “shade tree” for purposes of the chapter governing tree wardens;
- authorize a municipality to adopt a shade tree preservation plan, designate municipal shade trees, and adopt a tree ordinance for the administration of the shade tree preservation plan;
- establish notice and hearing requirements for the planned cutting of certain shade trees;
- amend the penalties for willfully and critically injuring or cutting shade trees; and
- require the approval of the municipal tree warden prior to the cutting of a shade tree located in a public way.

Effective Date: November 1, 2020