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H.477

SHORT FORM

Introduced by Representative O'Brien of Tunbridge

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Conservation and development; economic development; State Forest
lands; forestry operations

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the
Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation (Commissioner) to develop a
plan for reducing the number of delayed timber harvests on State Forest lands.
The bill would require the report to include a summary of the status of timber
harvests on State Forest lands, including the number of harvests that have not
been completed by the initial scheduled date of harvest and the reasons for any
delayed harvests. The bill would require the Commissioner to propose how to
reduce the number of delayed timber harvests on State Forest lands, including
whether additional staff at the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation are
needed to conduct the work necessary for completion of timber harvests. In
addition, the Commissioner shall address in the report whether licensed private
foresters could be contracted with to conduct the work necessary to reduce the
number of delayed timber harvests. The bill would require the Commissioner
in the report to estimate the costs and benefits of any plan to reduce the number

1 of delayed timber harvests on State Forest lands, including an estimate of the
2 number of harvesting jobs that could be created by facilitating harvest at
3 delayed sites. The bill would require the Commissioner to submit the report to
4 the House Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry and the
5 Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

6 An act relating to forest management harvests on State Forest lands

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

8 (TEXT OMITTED IN SHORT-FORM BILLS)