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H.932

Introduced by Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry

Date:

Subject: Conservation and development; land use; forestry; Act 250

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to clarify Act 250 jurisdiction over forestry by specifying that on a parcel devoted primarily to forestry, that jurisdiction only attaches to the part of the property that is for development. It would also exempt log and pulp concentration yards from Act 250. It would also clarify that forestry and logging below 2,500 feet in elevation is exempt from Act 250, provided it does not violate any other Act 250 permit conditions.

An act relating to the regulation of forestry under Act 250

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

Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 6001 is amended to read:

§ 6001. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

\* \* \*

(3)(A) “Development” means each of the following:

\* \* \*

1 (C) For the purposes of determining jurisdiction under subdivision  
2 ~~(3)~~(A) of this ~~section~~ subdivision (3), the following shall apply:

3 \* \* \*

4 (vi) Forestry as referenced in subdivision (D) of this subdivision  
5 (3) does not include conversion of land for nonexempt uses, such as for a  
6 commercial or industrial purpose constituting development as defined in this  
7 chapter.

8 \* \* \*

9 (F) When development is proposed to occur on a parcel or tract of  
10 land that is devoted to logging and forestry, only those portions of the parcel or  
11 the tract that support the development shall be subject to regulation under this  
12 chapter. Permits issued under this chapter shall not impose conditions on other  
13 portions of the parcel or tract of land that do not support the development or  
14 necessary mitigation areas and that restrict or conflict with the *Acceptable*  
15 *Management Practices for Maintaining Water Quality on Logging Jobs in*  
16 *Vermont.*

17 \* \* \*

18 (44) “Wood products manufacturer” means a manufacturer that  
19 aggregates wood products from forestry operations and adds value through  
20 processing or marketing in the wood products supply chain or directly to  
21 consumers through retail sales. “Wood products manufacturer” includes

1 sawmills; veneer mills; pulp mills; pellet mills; and producers of firewood,  
2 woodchips, mulch, and fuel wood; ~~and log and pulp concentration yards.~~  
3 “Wood products manufacturer” does not include facilities that purchase,  
4 market, and resell finished goods, such as wood furniture, wood pellets, and  
5 milled lumber, without first receiving wood products from forestry operations.

6 \* \* \*

7 Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 6081 is amended to read:

8 § 6081. PERMITS REQUIRED; EXEMPTIONS

9 \* \* \*

10 (ee) No permit or permit amendment is required for logging and forestry  
11 below the elevation of 2,500 feet that will not conflict with or violate any  
12 condition of a permit issued pursuant to this chapter. Permits shall include a  
13 statement that logging and forestry activities consistent with this subsection  
14 and below the elevation of 2,500 feet are exempt from amendment jurisdiction.

15 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

16 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.