

1 Introduced by Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry

2 Date:

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

4 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to clarify Act
5 250 jurisdiction over forestry by specifying that on a parcel devoted primarily
6 to forestry, that jurisdiction only attaches to the part of the property that is for
7 development. It would also exempt log and pulp concentration yards from Act
8 250. It would also clarify that forestry and logging below 2,500 feet in
9 elevation is exempt from Act 250 provided it does not violate any other Act
10 250 permit conditions.

11 An act relating to the regulation of forestry under Act 250

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

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

14 § 6001. DEFINITIONS

15 As used in this chapter:

16 * * *

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

18 * * *

19 (F) When development is proposed to occur on a parcel or tract of
20 land that is devoted to logging and forestry only those portions of the parcel or

1 the tract that support the development shall be subject to regulation under this
2 chapter. Permits issued under this chapter shall not impose conditions on other
3 portions of the parcel or tract of land that do not support the development and
4 that restrict or conflict with acceptable management practices adopted by the
5 Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation.

6 * * *

7 (44) “Wood products manufacturer” means a manufacturer that
8 aggregates wood products from forestry operations and adds value through
9 processing or marketing in the wood products supply chain or directly to
10 consumers through retail sales. “Wood products manufacturer” includes
11 sawmills; veneer mills; pulp mills; pellet mills; and producers of firewood,
12 woodchips, mulch, and fuel wood; ~~and log and pulp concentration yards.~~
13 “Wood products manufacturer” does not include facilities that purchase,
14 market, and resell finished goods, such as wood furniture, wood pellets, and
15 milled lumber, without first receiving wood products from forestry operations.

16 * * *

17 (52) “Forestry” means activities related to the management of forests,
18 including a timber harvest; pruning; planting; reforestation; pest, disease, and
19 invasive species control; wildlife habitat management; and fertilization that
20 comply with acceptable management practices adopted by the Commissioner
21 of Forests, Parks and Recreation and that do not conflict with or violate any

1 finding, conclusion, term, or condition of a permit issued pursuant to this
2 chapter with respect to any of the criteria specified in subdivisions 6086(a)(1)–
3 (10) of this title.

4 (53) “Logging” means harvesting timber and includes log and pulp
5 concentration yards that comply with applicable acceptable management
6 practices adopted by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation.

7 Logging shall not conflict with or violate any finding, conclusion, term, or
8 condition of a permit issued pursuant to this chapter with respect to any of the
9 criteria specified in subdivisions 6086(a)(1)–(10) of this title.

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

11 § 6081. PERMITS REQUIRED; EXEMPTIONS

12 * * *

13 (ee) No permit or permit amendment is required for logging and forestry
14 below the elevation of 2,500 feet that will not conflict with or violate any
15 finding, conclusion, term, or condition of a permit issued pursuant to this
16 chapter. Permits shall include a statement that logging and forestry is
17 permitted on lands exempt from amendment jurisdiction under this subsection.

18 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

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