

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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February 8, 2001
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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 610

S.P. 182

In Senate, February 8, 2001

**An Act to Ensure Environmental Integrity, Forest Health and Rural
Maine Jobs.**

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry suggested and
ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator NUTTING of Androscoggin.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

2
4 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §6209, sub-§7** is enacted to read:

6 7. Management of forest land. When timber harvesting
occurs on land acquired with money from the Land for Maine's
8 Future Fund, the harvesting must be done by a logger who is
certified as a master logger under a 3rd-party verification
10 program. When timber harvesting occurs on land on which the
State holds a conservation easement acquired with money from the
12 Land for Maine's Future Fund, the harvesting must be done by a
logger who is certified as a master logger under a 3rd-party
14 verification program. For the purposes of this subsection,
"timber harvesting" means the cutting or removal of timber for
the primary purpose of selling or processing forest products.

16 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §1826, sub-§5** is enacted to read:

18 5. Cutting by certified master logger. The cutting must be
20 carried out by a logger who is certified as a master logger under
a 3rd-party verification program.

22 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §1834, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 678,
24 §13, is amended to read:

26 2. Grant of permits. The bureau may grant permits and
enter into contracts to cut timber, harvest grass and wild foods,
28 tap maple trees for sap and cultivate and harvest crops provided
that those permits and contract rights create revocable licenses
30 to the permittee or party to the contract and do not create any
real property interest in the nonreserved public lands. The
32 bureau may not grant a permit to cut timber to or enter into a
contract to cut timber with any person who is not certified as a
34 master logger under a 3rd-party verification program.

36 **Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §1848, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 678,
38 §13, is amended to read:

40 2. Grant of permits. The bureau may grant permits and
enter into contracts to cut timber, harvest grass and wild foods,
42 tap maple trees for sap and cultivate and harvest crops provided
that such permits and contract rights create revocable licenses
44 to the permittee or party to the contract and do not create any
real property interest in the public reserved lands. The bureau
46 may not grant a permit to cut timber to or enter into a contract
to cut timber with any person who is not certified as a master
48 logger under a 3rd-party verification program.

50 **Sec. 5. 33 MRSA §477-A** is enacted to read:

§477-A. Timber harvesting; conservation easements held by State

2
4 When the State or an agency of the State is the holder of a
6 conservation easement on forest land, the easement must contain a
8 provision that requires any timber harvesting conducted on that
10 land to be conducted by a person who is certified as a master
12 logger under a 3rd-party verification program. For the purposes
14 of this section, "timber harvesting" means the cutting or removal
16 of timber for the primary purpose of selling or processing forest
18 products.

20 This section does not apply to conservation easements
22 created prior to the effective date of this section.

24
SUMMARY

26
28 This bill establishes a requirement for timber harvesting on
30 certain lands owned by the State or lands with an interest held
32 by the State. Timber harvesting must be conducted by a certified
34 master logger if the land is managed by the Department of
36 Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Lands; the land or interest in
38 the land has been acquired with money from the Land for Maine's
40 Future Fund; or the State holds a conservation easement on the
42 land.