MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 1114

H.P. 817

House of Representatives, March 4, 2003

An Act To Allow the Sale of Wood Chips by Uncertified Persons

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

Millicent M. Macfarland MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND Clerk

Presented by Representative MOODY of Manchester. Cosponsored by Representatives: CRESSEY of Baldwin, McCORMICK of West Gardiner.

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

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CONCEPT DRAFT SUMMARY

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This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

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This bill proposes to require paper and logging companies to purchase forest products for chipping and other purposes from small wood harvesters in Maine who are not certified in sustainable forestry practices. Presently, large purchasers of logs and forest products, including wood chips, are refusing to purchase forest products from small wood harvesters who have not taken an industry-sponsored certification course in sustainable forestry practices. Further, large forest products purchasers are refusing to purchase forest products from larger concerns sawmills who purchase forest products from these uncertified small wood harvesters, threatening the livelihood of not only the small wood harvesters but also the mills who traditionally have purchased the small wood harvesters' forest products. Many of these uncertified small wood harvesters are unable to attend the certification course due to financial and other concerns as they tend to be small, sole-proprietor operations.