

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
124TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1135, L.D. 1607, Bill, "An Act To Regulate the Transportation of Firewood"

Amend the bill in the emergency preamble by inserting after the 4th indented paragraph the following:

'Whereas, the transportation of firewood has been demonstrated to hasten the spread of these pests beyond the normal biological dispersal rate; and'

Amend the bill by striking out all of sections 1 and 2 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §8305, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 545, §3, is amended to read:

§8305. Shipment prohibited

The director may prohibit, prevent or regulate the entry into or movement within the State, from any part thereof to any other part, of any plants of the genus Ribes or other nursery or wilding plants, stock or parts of plants which or wood or wood products that may cause the introduction or spread of a dangerous forest insect or disease. The director may issue the necessary orders, permits and notices necessary to carry out this section which shall not be considered to. Orders, permits and notices issued under this section do not require or constitute an adjudicatory proceeding under the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, Title 5, chapter 375.

Sec. 2. Transportation of firewood; rules. The Director of the Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Conservation shall seek funding from private and public sources to supplement and secure federal funding sufficient to implement restrictions on the transportation of firewood into the State. Upon securing adequate funding, the director shall adopt rules under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 8306 to restrict the importation of firewood into the State to protect the State's forests from introduction of the emerald ash borer and the Asian longhorned beetle. The rules may allow the transportation of kiln-dried wood and include other exceptions the director determines do not threaten the State's forests.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1607

LR 2099(02)

An Act To Regulate the Transportation of Firewood

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"
Committee: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Additional costs to the Department of Conservation associated with seeking funding to implement restrictions on the transportation of firewood into the State can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources. This legislation also requires the department to conduct surveillance on state parks and other state-managed lands to detect the presence of the emerald ash borer and the Asian longhorned beetle, which can also be accomplished within existing budgeted resources.