

SENATE No. 2399

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

SENATE, June 22, 2004.

The committee on Ways and Means, to whom was committed the Senate Bill relative to the forest products trust fund (Senate, No. 1196), report recommending that the same ought to pass, with an amendment, substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 2399).

For the committee,

THERESE MURRAY.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Four.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE FOREST PRODUCTS TRUST FUND.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 58 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking
2 out section 17C, as amended by section 188 of chapter 26 of the
3 acts of 2003, and inserting in place thereof the following
4 section:—

5 Section 17C. (a) A Forest Product Trust Fund shall be estab-
6 lished on the books of the commonwealth. This fund shall be used
7 to disburse payments to cities and towns within whose boundaries
8 exist state-owned forest land under the care and control of the
9 bureau of forestry within the division of state parks and recre-
10 ation. The commissioner of conservation and recreation shall
11 develop forest management plans for such forest lands. Such plans
12 shall be approved by the stewardship council as provided in
13 section 2F of chapter 21.

14 (b) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary,
15 all revenues derived from the removal and sale of forest products
16 on land owned by the commonwealth and under the care and con-
17 trol of the bureau of forestry within the division of state parks and
18 recreation shall be deposited in the Forest Products Trust Fund.
19 All removals and sales of forest products shall be consistent with
20 the forest management plans required in this section.

21 (c) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary,
22 1/3 of the revenue deposited in the Forest Products Trust Fund
23 shall be disbursed annually to those municipalities within whose
24 boundaries the removal of forest products occurs. The remaining
25 revenue deposited in the fund may be expended by the bureau of
26 forestry within the division of state parks and recreation in the
27 following fiscal year, without further appropriation, for the pur-

28 pose of forest management on lands under its care and control.
29 The term "forest management" shall include, but not be limited to,
30 planning, wildlife habitat management and rehabilitation; fuel
31 management; implementing silvicultural practices; conducting
32 inventories; mapping, improving the quantity, quality and mar-
33 ketability of forest products on lands under the care and control of
34 the bureau, access thereto and necessary infrastructure, including
35 the construction, repair and maintenance of roads, culverts and
36 bridges and the purchase of equipment and vehicles.

