

SENATE No. 374

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Mr. Brewer

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to the forest products trust fund.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Stephen M. Brewer	Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin
Jennifer M. Callahan	18th Worcester
Anne M. Gobi	5th Worcester

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. S00478 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

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 SECTION 1. Chapter 58 of the General Laws as appearing in the 2004 Official Edition is hereby
2 amended by striking out section 17C and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

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

10 (b) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, all revenues derived from
11 the removal and sale of forest products on land owned by the commonwealth and under
12 the care and control of the bureau of forestry within the division of state parks and
13 recreation shall be deposited in the Forest Products Trust Fund. All removals and sales of

14 forest products shall be consistent with the forest management plans required in this
15 section.

16 (c) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, 1/3 of the revenue
17 deposited in the Forest Products Trust Fund shall be disbursed annually to those
18 municipalities within whose boundaries the removal of forest products occurs. The
19 remaining revenue deposited in the fund may be expended by the bureau of forestry
20 within the division of state parks and recreation in the following fiscal year, without
21 further appropriation, for the purpose of forest management on lands under its care and
22 control. The term “forest management” shall include, but not be limited to, planning,
23 wildlife habitat management and rehabilitation; fuel management; implementing
24 silvicultural practices; conducting inventories; mapping; improving the quantity, quality
25 and marketability of forest products on lands under the care and control of the bureau,
26 access thereto and necessary infrastructure, including the construction, repair and
27 maintenance of roads, culverts and bridges and the purchase of equipment and vehicles.