

HOUSE No. 3506

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act to protect tropical forests by restricting state purchases of certain wood products..

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. Section 22 of chapter 7 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting
2 the following new subsection after line 66:--

3 (17a) The state shall not purchase wood grown in a tropical forest or products made up
4 substantially of wood grown in a tropical forest except where a public necessity exists and no
5 other alternative is available or unless the wood originates from second growth forests and
6 carries independent certification, accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council.

7 For purposes of this Act, “tropical forests” are defined as any and all forests occurring
8 within the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, including but not limited to humid tropical forests,
9 moist tropical forests, tropical rain forests and tropical dry forests.

10 For purposes of this Act, “second growth forests” is defined as forests that have been cut
11 or severely impacted at least ten years prior to logging for wood.

12 For purposes of this Act, “independent certification” is defined as a credible and
13 internationally recognized scheme of forest management certification that is independent of any

14 government body or any corporate entity involved in the cutting, transport, milling, distribution,
15 supply or sales of wood products; includes the tracking of the chain-of-custody of the wood.

16 Where state monies are being used, recycled plastic lumber shall be considered as an
17 alternate material in all bids for outdoor and marine projects where hazardous material treated
18 woods (HMTW) and tropical hardwoods are typically used, such as boardwalks, piers, pilings,
19 fender piles, docks, bulkheads, ferry terminals, bridge decking and understructure, benches, and
20 other outdoor state or municipal amenities.