

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 813**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the Year Two Thousand Nine**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act regulating timber harvesting..

*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. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the state  
2 forestry committee (the “committee”) shall adopt regulations to substantially eliminate  
3 liquidation harvesting.

4 SECTION 2. No later than December 1, 2009, the Committee shall provisionally adopt  
5 rules to substantially eliminate liquidation harvesting by requiring measures that include, without  
6 limitation, increased professional involvement in planning and implementation of timber  
7 harvesting activities on forestlands. Regulations adopted pursuant to this section must require  
8 that timber harvesting activities be conducted with attention to long-term forest management  
9 principles and include appropriate exemptions, including, but not limited to, exemptions for  
10 landowners and land managers with independent 3rd-party certification, harvests covering small  
11 acreages and permitted land conversions. The regulations must apportion appropriate legal  
12 responsibilities to landowners, foresters and loggers for compliance with the regulations.

13 The Committee shall consult with the commissioner of conservation and recreation, the  
14 commissioner of the department of environmental protection, and the commissioner of fisheries

15 and wildlife to ensure that regulations regarding forestry practices are consistent with  
16 environmental and wildlife habitat protection.

17 SECTION 3. No later than January 1, 2010, the Committee shall report to the Joint  
18 Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture with recommendations and an  
19 implementation plan for solutions to the issue of liquidation harvesting. The committee shall  
20 review, at a minimum, the following:

- 21 1. Improvements to standards and guidelines for timber harvests;
- 22 2. Increased professional involvement in timber harvests;
- 23 3. Improved professional accountability of foresters;
- 24 4. Modifications to land use laws;
- 25 5. Disincentives to liquidation harvesting;
- 26 6. Incentives for landowners who receive independent, 3rd-party certification that  
27 their forest lands are well managed;
- 28 7. Economic policies to expand markets for forest products harvested from well-  
29 managed forests and to promote the Commonwealth as a world leader in green-certified forest  
30 lands and forest products; and
- 31 8. Other relevant approaches.

32 In conducting the review, the committee shall solicit input from representatives of the  
33 forestry industry, including professional loggers, state agencies, and municipalities, industrial

34 and nonindustrial landowners, environmental groups, financial institutions, Legislators and  
35 members of the public.

36           The final report shall include proposed changes to existing laws, rules and policies  
37 necessary to implement the recommendations.