

SENATE No. 374

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand 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
2 is hereby amended by striking out section 17C and inserting in place thereof the following
3 section:-

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

11 (b) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, all revenues derived from

12 the removal and sale of forest products on land owned by the commonwealth and under
13 the care and control of the bureau of forestry within the division of state parks and
14 recreation shall be deposited in the Forest Products Trust Fund. All removals and sales of
15 forest products shall be consistent with the forest management plans required in this
16 section.

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