

HB 1752-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-2953

08/07

HOUSE BILL

1752-FN

AN ACT requiring the creation of a ticket to follow timber through the harvesting and production process to establish a chain of custody.

SPONSORS: Rep. H. Howard, Straf. 4; Rep. Bixby, Straf. 13; Rep. Nagel, Belk. 6

COMMITTEE: Resources, Recreation and Development

ANALYSIS

This bill requires the creation of a ticket to follow timber through the harvesting and production process to establish a chain of custody.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
 Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

I. Any proposed timber harvest exceeding 75 contiguous acres of clearcut shall require the submission of a harvest plan prepared by a licensed forester.

1 II. The plan shall ensure compliance with regeneration and erosion control standards under
2 this chapter.

3 III. The division of forests and lands may require a field review prior to approval.

4 227-J:19 Erosion Control Certification.

5 Persons certified in erosion and sedimentation control by the department of environmental
6 services may file simplified notifications for harvests of 10 acres or less, provided they are directly
7 responsible for erosion control on the site.

8 227-J:20 Timber Harvesting in Protected Areas.

9 I. Timber harvesting or associated road or gravel pit construction in wetlands, shoreland
10 protection zones, or other environmentally sensitive areas shall require additional permits under
11 RSA 482-A and RSA 483-B.

12 II. The division of forests and lands shall coordinate with the department of environmental
13 services to ensure compliance.

14 227-J:21 In-Stream Wood Placement.

15 I. Projects to place wood in streams for habitat enhancement shall be approved by the
16 division of forests and lands in consultation with the fish and game department.

17 II. A treatment plan and site map shall be submitted with the notice of intent to cut.

18 227-J:22 Exemptions.

19 The following activities are exempt from the notification requirements of this subdivision, even if
20 forest products are sold:

21 I. Removal of single trees or small groups of trees in residential or roadside settings for
22 hazard removal, right-of-way clearance, or lot preparation of less than 2 acres.

23 II. Timber harvested solely for the personal use of the landowner.

24 227-J:23 Posting Requirement.

25 I. A copy of the approved notice of intent to cut or its assigned number shall be posted at the
26 principal landing or access point to the harvest site.

27 II. The notice shall remain posted until completion of the harvest.

28 227-J:24 Applicability.

29 I. Except as otherwise provided, this subdivision applies to all commercial timber harvesting
30 activities conducted within the state of New Hampshire.

31 II. All timber harvesting activities shall comply with applicable statutes, including but not
32 limited to:

33 (a) RSA 79, relative to the timber tax and notice of intent to cut.

34 (b) RSA 227-G and RSA 227-J, relative to forest management and timber harvesting.

35 (c) RSA 482-A, relative to the fill and dredge in wetlands act.

36 (d) RSA 483-B, relative shoreland water quality protection act.

37 (e) Applicable municipal zoning and land use ordinances.

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2 Deceptive Forestry Business Practices. Amend RSA 227-J:15, II to read as follows:

II. In this section, "adulterated" means varying from a standard of composition or quality prescribed by any statute providing criminal penalties for such variance, or set by established commercial usage. In this section, "mislabeled" means varying from a standard of truth or disclosure in labeling prescribed by any law providing criminal penalties for such variance, or set by established commercial usage. In this section, "scale slip" means a written or printed form or combination of forms which provide an accurate, readily understandable record containing the species of wood product, board footage of each individual log when the standard unit of measurement is per thousand board feet, or tonnage or cordage when not sold per thousand board feet, gross scale, defect, net scale, date wood was measured, *information for the name of the delivery company, the name of the land owner or the land owner's representative, and the lot number and address*, and the name of the party scaling the wood.

3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

HB 1752-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED

AN ACT requiring the creation of a ticket to follow timber through the harvesting and production process to establish a chain of custody.

FISCAL IMPACT: This bill does not provide funding, nor does it authorize new positions.

Estimated State Impact				
	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Revenue Fund(s)</i>	None			
Expenditures*	\$0	Indeterminable Increase \$350,000 to \$440,000	Indeterminable Increase \$450,000 to \$700,000	Indeterminable Increase \$450,000 to \$700,000
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	Water Resources Fund and General Fund			
Appropriations*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	None			

*Expenditure = Cost of bill

*Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill

METHODOLOGY:

This bill requires the creation of a ticket to follow timber through the harvesting and production process in order to establish a chain of custody. The bill creates new requirements for notices of intent to cut, establishes standards for foresting mill tickets, provides for large clearcut review, clarifies erosion control certification provisions, and requires coordination between the Division of Forests and Lands and the Department of Environmental Services when timber harvesting occurs in wetlands, shoreland protection areas, or other environmentally sensitive locations.

The Department of Environmental Services states this bill would not modify existing wetland or shoreland permitting requirements under RSA 482-A or RSA 483-B and therefore would not impact those programs. The Department indicates the primary fiscal impact would occur within the Alteration of Terrain Program, which administers RSA 485-A:17. The bill references a certification in erosion and sedimentation control; however, the Department notes that no such certification program currently exists. If the Department were required to establish a new certification program, it would need to develop standards, training materials, testing procedures, and outreach for the regulated community.

The Department states there is no fee authorized in the bill to support the proposed certification, and no existing fee would be replaced. The Department further states there are no available personnel to reassign to develop and administer a new certification and training program. To implement these requirements, the Department estimates the need for two Environmental Scientist positions (19-2040 Environmental Scientists-4, SOC19-07). The cost for these two positions, with a start date of January 1, 2027, is estimated at \$128,000 in FY 2027, for a partial year, \$230,000 in FY 2028, and \$240,000 in FY 2029, funded through the Water Resources Fund. The Department notes that additional costs associated with developing and administering the certification program cannot be estimated.

The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources states this bill would increase state expenditures related to review of timber harvest plans, large clearcut review, field inspections, permitting, and coordination with other agencies in environmentally sensitive areas. To perform these duties, the Department estimates the need for two full-time Forester positions beginning January 1, 2027. Due to the need to purchase a vehicle and related equipment, the Department estimates the cost for these two positions would be \$220,000 in FY 2027 for a partial year, \$198,000 in FY 2028, and \$202,000 in FY 2029. These positions would require a General Fund Appropriation.

This bill does not provide funding nor does it authorize positions. If positions are funded and authorized it is assumed the cost for FY 2028 and FY 2029 would be included in the Departments FY 2028 and FY 2029 budget request.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Environmental Services and Department of Natural and Cultural Resources