

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND AND THIRTEEN

S.P. 26 - L.D. 59

An Act Relating to the Unlawful Cutting of Trees

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §8869-A is enacted to read:

§8869-A. Prior division approval for harvesting trees and authority to issue stop-work orders

The division shall establish a prior approval process for harvesting trees by a person that has committed 2 violations of unlawful cutting of trees pursuant to Title 17, section 2510, subsection 1. The process must include at a minimum the following:

1. Written approval. Requiring written approval from the division for the person to harvest trees on any land in the State; and

2. Bonding. Requiring the person to post a private bond in an amount not less than \$500,000 before commencing tree harvesting.

The division shall issue a stop-work order if the requirements of this section are not met at the time harvesting is occurring.

For the purposes of this section, "person" means an individual, corporation, partnership, association or any other legal entity.

The Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are major substantive rules as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF
Forest Policy and Management - Division of 0240**

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for rule-making costs.

| GENERAL FUND | 2013-14 | 2014-15 |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| All Other | \$3,700 | \$0 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | <u>\$3,700</u> | <u>\$0</u> |