

2018 -- H 8141

LC005550

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

A N A C T

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY -- RHODE ISLAND FOREST
CONSERVATION ACT

Introduced By: Representatives O`Grady, Fogarty, Mattiello, Chippendale, and Carson

Date Introduced: April 27, 2018

Referred To: House Municipal Government

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 2 of the General Laws entitled "AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY"
2 is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 8.1

4 RHODE ISLAND FOREST CONSERVATION ACT

5 **2-8.1-1. Short title.**

6 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Rhode Island Forest Conservation
7 Act."

8 **2-8.1-2. Purpose.**

9 The purpose of this act is to prohibit any state economic and other incentives to develop
10 or convert forest land for renewable energy uses.

11 **2-8.1-3. Definitions.**

12 As used in this chapter:

13 (1) "Forested land" means any portion of any tract or contiguous tracts of land bearing a
14 dense growth of trees two hundred fifty (250) acres or larger as determined and mapped by the
15 department of environmental management.

16 (2) "Renewable energy facility" means a facility that supplies energy, including, but not
17 limited to, electrical and thermal energy, from a renewable energy source as defined in § 39-26-5.

18 **2-8.1-4. Protection of forested lands.**

1 (a) State funds shall not be used for renewable energy facilities on forested lands.

2 (b) There shall be no state economic or other incentives used to encourage the
3 development or conversion of forested lands for renewable energy facilities.

4 (c) The statewide planning program shall encourage municipalities to utilize their land
5 use authority to avoid and minimize the subsequent loss of forest lands.

6 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY -- RHODE ISLAND FOREST
CONSERVATION ACT

- 1 This act would establish the Rhode Island Forest Conservation Act which prohibits any
- 2 state economic and other incentives to develop or convert forest land for renewable energy uses.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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