Committee Report

CONSENT CALENDAR February 18, 2020

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Committee on Resources, Recreation and Development to which was referred HB 1532,

AN ACT establishing a commission to review and propose initiatives to implement the recommendations of the 2020 forest resources plan. Having considered the same, report the same with the following amendment, and the recommendation that the bill OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.

Rep. Suzanne Smith

FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	Resources, Recreation and Development				
Bill Number:	HB 1532				
Title:	establishing a commission to review and propose initiatives to implement the recommendations of the 2020 forest resource plan.	ces			
Date:	February 18, 2020				
Consent Calendar:	CONSENT				
Recommendation:	OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT 2020-0673h				

STATEMENT OF INTENT

The original bill would have formed a commission of 15 members to review and propose initiatives to implement the recommendations of the 2020 Forest Resources Plan. The amendment changes the commission to a legislative committee which will consult with the statutory forest advisory board. The originally proposed commission would have many of the same members as the forest advisory board and would essentially be duplicative. Development of the 2020 Forest Resources Plan is well underway and hearings are being scheduled so that the public may weigh in. The plan is required to be finished by June of this year. The plan, which is updated every 10 years, provides a road map not only for the Division of Forests and Lands but also for the forestry community in general.

Vote 17-0.

Rep. Suzanne Smith FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

CONSENT CALENDAR

Resources, Recreation and Development

HB 1532, establishing a commission to review and propose initiatives to implement the recommendations of the 2020 forest resources plan. OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Rep. Suzanne Smith for Resources, Recreation and Development. The original bill would have formed a commission of 15 members to review and propose initiatives to implement the recommendations of the 2020 Forest Resources Plan. The amendment changes the commission to a legislative committee which will consult with the statutory forest advisory board. The originally proposed commission would have many of the same members as the forest advisory board and would essentially be duplicative. Development of the 2020 Forest Resources Plan is well underway and hearings are being scheduled so that the public may weigh in. The plan is required to be finished by June of this year. The plan, which is updated every 10 years, provides a road map not only for the Division of Forests and Lands but also for the forestry community in general. Vote 17-0.

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

February 21, 2020 Committee Report

Resources Recreation and Development Committee

HB1532

Motion OTP/A Amendment 2020-0673h

Consent Calendar

The original bill would have formed a commission of 15 members to review and propose initiatives to implement the recommendations of the 2020 forest resources plan. The amendment changes the commission to a legislative committee which will consult with the statutory forest advisory board. The originally proposed commission would have many of the same members as the forest advisory board and would essentially be duplicative. Development of the 2020 forest resources plan is well underway and hearings are being scheduled so that the public may weigh in. The plan is required to be finished by June of this year. The forest resources plan which is updated every 10 years provides a roadmap not only for the Division of Forests and Lands but also for the forestry community in general.

Rep. Suzanne Smith, Graf. 8 February 14, 2020 2020-0673h 08/06

1 2

27

28 29

30

Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

Amendment to HB 1532

AN ACT establishing a committee to review and propose initiatives to implement the 3 recommendations of the 2020 forest resources plan. 4 5 Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following: 6 7 8 1 Committee Established. There is established a committee to review and propose initiatives to 9 implement the recommendations of the 2020 forest resources plan developed pursuant to RSA 227-10 I:6-8. 2 Membership and Compensation. 11 I. The members of the committee shall be as follows: 12 (a) Three members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the 13 14 house of representatives. (b) Two members of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate. 15 II. Members of the committee shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to 16 17 the duties of the committee. 3 Duties. The committee shall consult with the Forest Advisory Board established in RSA 227-18 I:5 to review the 2020 forest resources plan and develop recommendations for implementation of its 19 findings including the following: 20 I. The future of forest resources in the short and long term. 2122 II. The management of forest resources for public benefits such as recreation, clean air and 23 water, wildlife habitat, and climate change. 24 III. The future development of the forest products industry to optimize technological and 25 market advancements and employment opportunities. 26 IV. The opportunities for northeast regional cooperation.

4 Chairperson; Quorum. The members of the study committee shall elect a chairperson from

among the members. The first meeting of the committee shall be called by the first-named house

member. The first meeting of the committee shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this

section. Three members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

Amendment to HB 1532 - Page 2 -

- 5 Report. The committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed
- 2 legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house
- 3 clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2020.
- 4 6 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Amendment to HB 1532 - Page 3 -

2020-0673h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a committee to review and propose initiatives to implement the recommendations of the 2020 forest resources plan.

Voting Sheets

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 1532

BILL TITLE:

establishing a commission to review and propose initiatives to implement the

recommendations of the 2020 forest resources plan.

DATE:

February 18, 2020

LOB ROOM:

305

MOTIONS:

OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT

Moved by Rep. Suzanne Smith

Seconded by Rep. Spang

AM Vote: 17-0

Amendment # 2020-0673h

Moved by Rep. Suzanne Smith

Seconded by Rep. Bushway

Vote: 17-0

CONSENT CALENDAR: YES

Statement of Intent:

Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Rosemarie Rung, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 1532

BILL TITLE:		nmission to review and propose i of the 2020 forest resources plan	
DATE: 2 18	las		
LOB ROOM:	305		
<u> </u>			
MOTION: (Pleas	se check one box)		
d OTP	☐ ITL	☐ Retain (1st year)	Adoption of Amendment #
		☐ Interim Study (2nd year)	(if offered)
Moved by Rep.	Smilk	Seconded by Rep. Apang	Vote:
MOTION: (Pleas	se check one box)		
□ ОТР □ С	OTP/A □ ITL	☐ Retain (1st year)	Adoption of Amendment # 0673,
•		☐ Interim Study (2nd year)	(if offered)
Moved by Rep.	milh	Seconded by Rep. Span	Vote: 17-0
MOTION: (Pleas	se check one box)		
□ OTP ☑ O	OTP/A □ ITL	☐ Retain (1st year)	☐ Adoption of Amendment #
	1	☐ Interim Study (2nd year)	(if offered)
Moved by Rep.	mich	Seconded by Rep. Bushi	Vote: 17-0
MOTION: (Pleas	se check one box)		
□ ОТР □ О	OTP/A □ ITL	☐ Retain (1st year)	☐ Adoption of
		☐ Interim Study (2nd year)	Amendment # (if offered)
Moved by Rep		Seconded by Rep.	Vote:
	4		
	CONSENT CA	ALENDAR: YES _	NO
Minority Report	? Yes	No	Motion
Rea	spectfully submitted	d: <u>Alemanu</u> Rep Rosema	rie Rung Clerk
		Tich Tioscilla	110 10011/6, 010111

OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK



1/2/2020 10:46:06 AM Roll Call Committee Registers Report

2020 SESSION

Resources, Recre	eation and Development	2020	
wa	adont.	10/42/	

Bill #! 15 3 2	Motion:	adopt ament	AM #:	0673 h Exec Session Date:	2/18	/20
					/ /	

<u>Members</u>	YEAS	Nays	<u>NV</u>
Smith, Suzanne J. Chairman			
Maes, Kevin G. Vice Chairman			
Spang, Judith T.	V		·
Parkhurst, Henry A. L.			
Thomas, Yvonne D.			
Grassie, Chuck W.			
Bushway, Patricia J.	/		
Cohen, Bruce L.	/		
Noel, Henry W.	/		
Rung, Rosemarie Clerk	V		
Thomas, Wendy E.N.			V
Renzullo, Andrew	V		
Gould, Linda R.	V		
Horgan, James F.			V
Feeney, George	V		
Gunski, Michael D.			
Harb, Robert D.			
Hobson, Deborah L.			
Whittemore, James R.			
Spillane, James A.			
TOTAL VOTE:	17	0	0



1/2/2020 10:46:06 AM Roll Call Committee Registers Report

2020 SESSION

Resources, R	ecreation	and D	evel)	opment
--------------	-----------	-------	-------	--------

· H	15					2020 -		1	1
Bill #:	15	32	Motion:	OTPA	AM #:	0673h	Exec Session Date:	2/1	8/20

		,	
<u>Members</u>	YEAS	<u>Nays</u>	NV
Smith, Suzanne J. Chairman			
Maes, Kevin G. Vice Chairman	1		
Spang, Judith T.			
Parkhurst, Henry A. L.			
Thomas, Yvonne D.			
Grassie, Chuck W.			
Bushway, Patricia J.			
Cohen, Bruce L.			
Noel, Henry W.			
Rung, Rosemarie Clerk			
Thomas, Wendy E.N.			V
Renzullo, Andrew			
Gould, Linda R.			
Horgan, James F.			
Feeney, George			
Gunski, Michael D.			A STATE OF THE SAME
Harb, Robert D.			
Hobson, Deborah L.			
Whittemore, James R.			V
Spillane, James A.			
TOTAL VOTE:	17	0	3

Rep. Suzanne Smith, Graf. 8 February 14, 2020 2020-0673h 08/06

Amendment to HB 1532

	•
1	Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:
2	
3 4 5	AN ACT establishing a committee to review and propose initiatives to implement the recommendations of the 2020 forest resources plan.
6	Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:
7	
8	1 Committee Established. There is established a committee to review and propose initiatives to
9	implement the recommendations of the 2020 forest resources plan developed pursuant to RSA 227-
10	I:6-8.
11	2 Membership and Compensation.
12	I. The members of the committee shall be as follows:
13	(a) Three members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the
14	house of representatives.
15	(b) Two members of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.
16	II. Members of the committee shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to
17	the duties of the committee.
18	3 Duties. The committee shall consult with the Forest Advisory Board established in RSA 227-
19	I:5 to review the 2020 forest resources plan and develop recommendations for implementation of its
20	findings including the following:
21	I. The future of forest resources in the short and long term.
22	II. The management of forest resources for public benefits such as recreation, clean air and
23	water, wildlife habitat, and climate change.
24	III. The future development of the forest products industry to optimize technological and
25	market advancements and employment opportunities.
26	IV. The opportunities for northeast regional cooperation.
27	4 Chairperson; Quorum. The members of the study committee shall elect a chairperson from
28	among the members. The first meeting of the committee shall be called by the first-named house
29	member. The first meeting of the committee shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this
30	section. Three members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

Amendment to HB 1532 - Page 2 -

- 1 5 Report. The committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed
- 2 legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house
- 3 clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2020.
 - 6 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

4

Amendment to HB 1532 - Page 3 -

2020-0673h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a committee to review and propose initiatives to implement the recommendations of the 2020 forest resources plan.

Hearing Minutes

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 1532

BILL TITLE: establishing a commission to review and propose initiatives to

implement the recommendations of the 2020 forest resources plan.

DATE: February 4, 2020

LOB ROOM: 305 Time Public Hearing Called to Order: 10:30 a.m.

Time Adjourned: 11:10 a.m.

<u>Committee Members</u>: Reps. Suzanne Smith, Maes, Rung, Spang, Y. Thomas, Grassie, Bushway, Cohen, Noel, W. Thomas, Renzullo, Gould, Feeney, Harb, Hobson and Spillane

Bill Sponsors:

Rep. Laflamme Sen. Bradley Rep. Noel

Rep. Luneau

TESTIMONY

- * Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.
 - *Rep. Larry Laflamme introduced the bill as its prime sponsor and provided written
 testimony to the file of the bill. He provided background material to the file. He alerted the
 committee that an amendment has been requested to correct drafting errors. Chairman
 Smith brought attention to some other errors that would need to be corrected in an
 amendment.
 - 2. *Rep. Henry Noel, a co-sponsor of the bill, spoke in favor of the bill and provided written testimony.
 - 3. **Rep. Judith Spang** testified in support of the bill. She cited new applications for forest products and examples of what Maine is doing.
 - 4. *Brad Simpkins of the NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources testified in support of this bill and provided written testimony.
 - 5. *Carol Foss of the NH Audubon Society testified in support of the intent of the bill and provided written testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Rosemarie Rung Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 1532

BILL TITLE:				propose initiative 120 forest resoure	
DATE: ¿	2/4/20				
ROOM:	305	Time	Public Hearin	ng Called to Orde	r: 10:30
			. "	Time Adjourne	d: <u>////</u>
		(please circ	le if present)		
	Cohen, Noe	l, W. Thomas,		pang, Parkhurst d, Horgan, Feene	
Bill Sponsors: Rep. Laflamme Sen. Bradley		Rep. Noel		Rep. Luneau	
		TEST	IMONY		
* Use asterisk if	written testime	ony and/or amen	dments are subr	mitted.	
				2	
2					
*					
	*		-	,	
					10

NH HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE TESTIMONY ON HB 1532

- 1. *Rep. Larry Laflamme introduced the bill as its prime sponsor and provided written testimony to the file of the bill. He provided background material to the file. He alerted the committee that an amendment has been requested to correct drafting errors. Chairman Smith brought attention to some other errors that would need to be corrected in an amendment.
- 2. *Rep. Henry Noel, a co-sponsor of the bill, spoke in favor of the bill and provided written testimony.
- 3. Rep. Judith Spang testified in support of the bill. She cited new applications for forest products and examples of what Maine is doing.
- 4. *Brad Simpkins of the NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources testified in support of this bill and provided written testimony.
- 5. *Carol Foss of the NH Audubon Society testified in support of the intent of the bill and provided written testimony.

SIGN UP SHEET

To Register Opinion If Not Speaking

Bill # HB 15.32 Date 2/4/20		
Bill # HB 1532 Date 2/4/20 Committee Resources Reclection + Development		
** Please Print All Information **		
	(checl	k one)
Name Address Phone Representing	Pro	Con
Name Address Phone Representing Not Timberland Dasen Stock Concord NH 221-9699 Owners Assoc.	X	/
Henry Woil Coos Sist. 3	V	
CHATLES NIEBEING BOSCAWEN NH 965-5434 SELF	X	
Carol Fors PENACOCK NH 204-9909 NH Audubon	×	
Matt Leahy Forest Society		

Testimony

Company Country

Testimony on HB 1532

Jay nuis

This bill, if passed, would form a commission to review and propose initiatives to implement the recommendations of the 2020 forest resources plan, including exploring new markets for low grade wood.

I have Communicated with several entities including the Northern Forest Center and the Society for the Protection of NH forests, and they support this bill.

In 2013, NH forests covered 4,833,332 acres, 84% of the state, making it the second most forested state behind only Maine. Our forests grow 200 million cubic feet of wood per year, and of that growth 138 million cubic feet is harvested. With better markets for wood, we could increase forest products jobs and increase economic activity.

There are others who wish to address the committee, so I will keep my testimony short, and address the economic impact of the forest products industry.

I have passed up two information sheets. The first reflects the impact of the forest-based economy in NH based on a 2013 report from the Northeast State Foresters Association.

The forest-based economy plays a significant role in the overall economy of NH. Data from this report shows an annual value of the forest-based economy output, including recreation, to be 2.8 billion dollars, 3.8 billion with multipliers, supporting 23,618 jobs.

The other paper is a report of the economic contribution of one market for low grade wood prepared for the NH Timberland Owners Assoc. by Daniel Lee from Plymouth State University. It is a 2016 summary of the economic contribution of biomass power plants. I don't wish to discuss the pros and cons of using biomass to produce power, but it remains an important market for low grade wood, and in 2016, before some plants were forced to close, it supported 932 jobs including those produced by direct, indirect, and induced effects, with a total economic output of 252 million dollars injected into the NH economy. This loss in the low-grade wood market is one area that would be addressed by this commission.

In closing, please consider the economic impact of the forest-based industry in NH, and the importance of exploring new markets to secure the future growth of this important segment of the NH economy.

Manon

Thank you.

Larry L. Laflamme

Representative, Coos District 3

Lang L. Rollanne

sequestered in New Hampshire's forest that can be monetized in these new markets is likely between 0.5 ton and 1.5 tons of carbon per acre per year, depending on the age, forest type and stocking of the forest, among other factors. Though modest, it may be the start of converting valuable ecosystem services to an economic form humans understand best – money in a marketplace. Regardless, ecosystem services not yet monetized should be considered a valuable part of the forest-based economy in New Hampshire.

Position of forest-based economy in the overall economy

The forest-based economy plays a significant role in the overall economy of New Hampshire. Figure 28 shows that the annual value of the forest-based economy output including forest recreation is \$2.8 billion (\$3.8 billion with multipliers). Gross State Product for all of New Hampshire's Forest Products Manufacturing is \$341 million while the GSP of all Manufacturing is \$7.7 billion.

New Hampshire Forest-based economy vs. overall economy

overall economy	millions of	jobs*
Forestry, logging & trucking	\$150	2,860
Wood products manufacturing	\$401	1,996
Furniture and related product manufacturing	\$190	1,140
Paper manufacturing	\$481	1,100
Wood energy	\$166	470
Christmas trees and maple syrup	\$6	190
Sub-total direct	\$1,394	7,756
Sub-total with multipliers	\$2,404	12,818
Forest Recreation	\$1,400	10,800
Total	\$3804	23,618

GSP, Forest Products Manufacturing	\$341
GSP, All Manufacturing, New Hampshire	\$7,657
GSP, Total for New Hampshire	\$64,975

*full-time equivalent jobs

Sources: U.S. Dept. of Commerce - Bureau of Economic Analysis & Census of Manufactures; USDA statistics, private data, IMPLAN

GSP - Gross State Product includes value added, which is equal to its gross output minus its intermediate purchases from domestic industries or from foreign sources.

Gross Output - Includes the total value of all products produced and shipped by all producers (essentially sales).

Issues with potential to affect the future forest economy

There are a number of issues that could affect the future forest-based economy in New Hampshire.

- Land removed from active management If significant acreages of forestland are removed from the working forest, those acres may still provide the backdrop for the forest recreation/tourism part of the economy but will no longer also provide the raw material for the forest products manufacturing sectors of the economy. This can also occur when forest land is fragmented by development.
- Climate change In the short-term, slightly longer growing seasons resulting from shortened winters and slightly warmer temperatures, given all other things being equal, may increase the growth of New Hampshire's trees and provide for slightly longer warm weather periods each year for recreation in the woods. Shortened winters may have negative effects on that portion of the recreation economy. This phenomenon may benefit parts of the forest-based economy. Should climate change also result in increased forest pest problems (or result in other changes), the perceived benefits could be offset. Over the long-term, any positive effects from climate change could disappear should temperature increases and climate changes not modify over time.



VIII. ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION ESTIMATES Based on the IMPLAN model with actual data from the biomass electric power plants

The six independent biomass electric power plants' contribution spreads across the state's economy by creating and supporting jobs, incomes, and taxes. They support their supply industries in the region by making purchases from them (indirect effect). In addition, workers in the biomass power plants and their supply industries spend their earnings in the region's services industries (induced effect). For example, Table 4 shows that there are 121 jobs in these biomass electric power plants. These 121 biomass electric power plant jobs support an additional 583 jobs in supporting industries, such as logging. These 121 biomass electric power plant jobs and 583 jobs in the supporting industries together support an additional 228 jobs in services sectors, such as grocery stores, hospitals, gas station, utility, restaurants, etc.

Table 4. Summary of Economic Contribution, Year 2016

		(include	Labor Income) (include	es Value Added)
Direct Effect	121	\$11.6	\$68.1	\$158.9
indirect Effect	583	\$28.1	\$34.7	\$64.5
Induced Effect	228	\$11.2	\$18.7	\$31.1
Total Effect	932	\$50.9	\$121.5	\$254.5

The dollars are expressed in millions of 2016 dollars.

Value added is defined as labor income, other types of property income (such as dividends, interest income, rent income, and profits), taxes on production and imports.

Output is the sum of value added and the cost of all the inter-industry purchases required for production.



February 4, 2020

I speak in support of HB 1532, establishing a commission to review and propose initiatives to implement the recommendations of the 2020 forest resources plan. This commission will be composed of 14 representatives of the numerous state agencies, private and public organizations who work with NH's forests.

We expect the 2020 forest resources plan will continue the previous plan to assess the character and extent of NH's forests as a common resource for all its citizens and the visitors to NH to use and enjoy; but also to expand on the US Department of Agriculture's Forest Service National Priorities to:

- 1. Conserve the working forest landscape;
- 2. Protect forests from threats;
- 3. Enhance public benefits from trees and forests.

The previous Forests Resources Plan (2010) is a large document, consisting of 2 parts: an assessment of statewide forest resources, and of strategies to promote the USDA Forest Service's National Priorities. The strategies identified there are numerous, being 145 unique recommended actions. 72 Key Cooperators were identified then, made up of State, private and public organizations who were already present and active in NH's forests. 5 Focus Areas were defined in support of NH's 3 named Priorities, which are re-iterations of the USDA priorities listed above.

As you can see this is a complex plan. The State Forester was directed to implement and coordinate the actions of the Key Cooperators to accomplish the strategies identified in the plan. 10 years on and a new plan is being developed to revisit the condition of NH's forests. Many changes have occurred in this time: to forest products markets, to the number of people accessing our forest resources and the variety of reasons they do so has increased, to the changes in ownership of the land reflecting new and different uses for this asset, and of increasing pressure to develop more land, to name a few.

The new plan in development should reflect these and other changes. Recent information from the State Forester indicates that ~34 of the 145 strategies need some level of support from the legislature. I assume that many of the other strategies in the prior 2010 plan should be carried forward into the new plan. Also, that institutional knowledge and practical experience will have grown amongst the Key Cooperators with the successful completion of many strategies, and that this should be adapted into the new plan.

This commission would thus consider the new plan in light of the state's experience implementing the previous plan strategies. It could examine how coordination among the various Key Cooperators can be used to better support the State Forester's efforts to implement the new plan. More I cannot say without specific knowledge of the new plan's contents. The duties of this commission specified in the bill capture our intent well.

NH's forests are our heritage and a common resource for our people, to be shared individually and enjoyed with our neighbors, and to be maintained such as will be passed down to our children as their heritage too.

Henry W Noel



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT of NATURAL and CULTURAL RESOURCES DIVISION of FORESTS and LANDS

172 PEMBROKE ROAD CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301 PHONE: (603) 271-2214 FAX: (603) 271-6488 WWW.NHDFL.ORG

The Honorable Suzanne Smith, Chairperson New Hampshire House of Representatives Resources, Recreation and Development Committee Legislative Office Building, Room 305 Concord, NH 03302 February 4th, 2020

Re: HB 1532-An act establishing a commission to review and propose initiatives to implement the recommendations of the 2020 forest resources plan

Dear Chairperson Smith and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding HB 1532, relative to establishing a commission to review and implement the 2020 forest resources and forest action plan. The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Forests and Lands, supports this bill.

The Division of Forests and Lands is the state agency charged with the execution of "all matters pertaining to forestry, forest management, and forestlands within the jurisdiction of the state". One of our responsibilities within state statute is the development of a forest resources plan every 10 years. Likewise, under federal law, we are required to develop a Forest Action Plan every 10 years in order to be eligible for federal cooperative forestry assistance funds. Both of these plans have many similar components, and are therefore merged into one plan that suffices for both requirements, called the state forest action plan. Combined, this plan sets the roadmap not only for the division, but also for the forestry community in general, for the next decade.

The division has been engaged in forest planning since the 1950's, and previous plans have led to some beneficial changes over the years. We certainly hope this next plan continues that tradition. Some of the specific requirements we need to address in the plan are policy considerations, laws, rules, fiscal needs, and legislative priorities (RSA 227-I:8). Having a commission to assist in implementing these recommendations in particular, would be very helpful. The 2020 plan is required to be finished by June of this year, so the timing of this legislation is perfect.

While we strongly support the concept of this bill, there are a few minor edits we suggest making. We suggest on line 5, amending RSA 227-I:6-7, to RSA 227-I:6-8. It appears lines 10 and 18 are duplicative; line 12 should read "Timberland"; and line 23 appears to be incomplete.

In addition, it has been suggested to us by some of our partners that maybe a legislative committee working with our currently-existing Forest Advisory Board may be a more efficient way of moving forward. We welcome the committee's guidance on the best vehicle for this endeavor.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. If I can provide any additional information, please let me know.

Respectfully,

Brad W. Simpkins

Director

cc: Sarah Stewart, Commissioner, DNCR





STATEWIDE OFFICES

84 Silk Farm Road Concord, NH 03301 Phone 603-224-9909 Fax 603-226-0902 nha@nhaudubon.org www.nhaudubon.org

REGIONAL CENTERS

MASSABESIC CENTER

26 Audubon Way Auburn, NH 03032 Phone 603-668-2045

McLane Center

84 Silk Farm Road Concord, NH 03301 Phone 603-224-9909

Newfound Center

Summer Mailing Address: 50 North Shore Road Hebron, NH 03241 Location: 290 North Shore Road Hebron, NH 03241 Phone 603-744-3516 February 4, 2020

The Honorable Suzanne Smith House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee Room 305, Legislative Office Building Concord, NH 03301

Re: Comments on HB 1532 establishing a commission to review and propose initiatives to implement the recommendations of the 2020 forest resources plan

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the House Resources, Recreation, and Development Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony regarding HB 1532 on behalf of NH Audubon. We are a statewide conservation organization dedicated to protecting New Hampshire's environment for wildlife and for people.

While we support the intent of this bill, we have several concerns about its current language. Specifically:

- Items II.(c) and (i) are duplicative.
- Item II.(l) is incomplete and unclear, and possibly duplicative of (i) and (g).
- Item IV. (b) includes recreation and wildlife habitat among the public benefits for which the forest should be managed, but the proposed commission membership includes no representatives for those interests.

We also call your attention to the Forest Advisory Board (FAB), which is authorized under RSA 227-I:5 to advise the Division of Forests and Lands on "factors affecting the use, ownership, and management of forest resources." The FAB is involved in the development of Forest Resources Plans and its mission includes advocating for implementation of their recommendations. The proposed membership of the commission includes many entities already represented on the FAB. One approach to reducing this duplication would be to eliminate the specific parties represented on the FAB and instead include two members of the FAB appointed by the Director of the Division of Forests and Lands.

An alternative approach would be, rather than forming a commission, to appoint a committee of legislators to review the 2020 Forest Resources Plan and meet directly with the FAB to discuss potential legislative initiatives to implement the Plan's recommendations.

We urge the Committee to work with the Director of the Division of Forests and Lands to develop a mutually satisfactory amendment to HB 1532.

Carol R. Los

Carol R. Foss

Senior Advisor for Science and Policy

Bill as Introduced

HB 1532 - AS INTRODUCED

2020 SESSION

20-2563 08/10

HOUSE BILL

1532

AN ACT

establishing a commission to review and propose initiatives to implement the

recommendations of the 2020 forest resources plan.

SPONSORS:

Rep. Laflamme, Coos 3; Rep. Noel, Coos 3; Rep. Luneau, Merr. 10; Sen. Bradley,

Dist 3

COMMITTEE:

Resources, Recreation and Development

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a commission to review and propose initiatives to implement the recommendations of the 2020 forest resources plan.

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.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty

AN ACT

6

7

8

9

10

13

14

15

16

17

20

21

22

23 24

25

26

27

28

establishing a commission to review and propose initiatives to implement the recommendations of the 2020 forest resources plan.

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

- 1 New Section; Commission to Study the Forest Industry. Amend RSA 227-G by inserting after section 6 the following new section:
 227-G:6-a Commission to Study the Forest Industry. There is established a commission to review and propose initiatives to implement the recommendations of the 2020 forest resources plan developed pursuant to RSA 227-I:6-7.
 - II. The members of the commission shall be as follows:
 - (a) Two members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.
 - (b) Two members of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.
 - (c) One member of the forest society, appointed by that society.
- 11 (d) One representative of large woodlands owners, appointed by the New Hampshire 12 Timber Owners Association.
 - (e) The director of the division of forest and lands, department of natural and cultural resources, or designee.
 - (f) The commissioner of the department of business and economic affairs, or designee.
 - (g) A representative from the Northern Forest Center, appointed by that organization.
 - (h) A consulting forester, appointed by the New Hampshire Society of American Forests.
- 18 (i) A representative from the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, 19 appointed by that organization.
 - (j) A representative of the wood energy industry, appointed by the governor.
 - (k) A representative of the electricity, heat, and transportation fuels industry, appointed by the governor.
 - (1) A representative of a forest conservation, appointed by the governor.
 - III. Legislative members of the commission shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to the duties of the commission.
 - IV. The commission shall review the forest resources plan and develop recommendations for implementation of its findings including addressing:
 - (a) The future of forest resources in the short and long term.
- 29 (b) The management of forest resources for public benefits such as recreation, clean air 30 and water, wildlife habitat, and climate change.

HB 1532 - AS INTRODUCED - Page 2 -

1	(c) The future development of the forest products industry to optimize technological and
2	market advancements and employment opportunities.
3	(d) The opportunities for northeast regional cooperation.
4	V. The members of the study commission shall elect a chairperson from among the
5	members. The first meeting of the commission shall be called by the first-named house member.
6	The first meeting of the committee shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section.
7	Seven members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.
8	VI. The committee shall make an interim report on November 1, 2020 and a final report on
9	November 1, 2021 of its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the speaker of
10	the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house clerk, the senate clerk, the
11	governor, and the state library.
12	2 Repeal. RSA 227-G:6-a, relative to the commission to review and implement recommendations
13	of the 2020 forest resources plan, is repealed.
14	3 Effective Date.
15	I. Section 2 of this act shall take effect November 1, 2021.
16	II. The remainder of this act shall take effect upon its passage.