

HOUSE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 59

A bill to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled
"Natural resources and environmental protection act,"
by amending section 51108 (MCL 324.51108), as amended by 2013 PA
48.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 51108. (1) An owner of a commercial forest may withdraw
2 his or her forestland, in whole or in part, from the classification
3 as commercial forest under this part upon application to the
4 department and payment of the withdrawal application fee and
5 penalty, as provided in this section.

6 (2) Except as otherwise provided by this section, upon
7 application to the department to withdraw forestland from the
8 classification as commercial forest under this part, the applicant

1 shall forward to the department a withdrawal application fee in the
2 amount of \$1.00 per acre with a minimum withdrawal application fee
3 of \$200.00 per application and a maximum withdrawal application fee
4 of \$1,000.00 per application.

5 (3) Except as otherwise provided in this section, an
6 application to withdraw forestland from the classification as
7 commercial forest under this part shall be granted upon the payment
8 of a penalty to the treasurer of the township in which the
9 forestland is located. The withdrawal penalty shall be calculated
10 in the following manner:

11 (a) Multiply the number of acres of forestland withdrawn from
12 the classification as commercial forest under this part by 1 of the
13 following:

14 (i) For 2007, 1/2 of the valuation per acre for the county in
15 which the forestland is located.

16 (ii) Beginning in 2008, and for each subsequent year, the
17 number described in subparagraph (i) adjusted annually by the
18 inflation rate for each year after 2007.

19 (b) Multiply the product of the calculation in subdivision (a)
20 by the average millage rate levied by all townships, excluding
21 villages, in the county in which the forestland is located.

22 (c) Multiply the product of the calculation in subdivision (b)
23 by the number of years, to a maximum of 7 years, in which the
24 forestland withdrawn from the classification as commercial forest
25 under this part has been classified as commercial forest under this
26 part.

27 (d) Multiply the product of the calculation in subdivision (c)

1 by the following:

2 (i) 0.2, if the forestland is located in Luce county.

3 (ii) 0.3, if the forestland is located in Grand Traverse,
4 Manistee, Ottawa, or Wexford county.

5 (iii) 0.4, if the forestland is located in Charlevoix, Chippewa,
6 Emmet, Gladwin, Leelanau, Midland, Oscoda, or Tuscola county.

7 (iv) 0.5, if the forestland is located in Cheboygan, Delta,
8 Mackinac, Oceana, Otsego, or Schoolcraft county.

9 (v) 0.6, if the forestland is located in Alcona, Alger,
10 Allegan, Alpena, Arenac, Barry, Bay, Benzie, Berrien, Branch,
11 Calhoun, Cass, Clare, Clinton, Crawford, Dickinson, Eaton, Genesee,
12 Gogebic, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Houghton, Huron, Ingham, Ionia, Iosco,
13 Iron, Isabella, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kalkaska, Kent, Lapeer,
14 Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Marquette, Mecosta, Monroe, Montcalm,
15 Montmorency, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oakland, Ogemaw, Osceola, Presque
16 Isle, Roscommon, Saginaw, St. Clair, St. Joseph, Sanilac,
17 Shiawassee, Van Buren, Washtenaw, or Wayne county.

18 (vi) 0.7, if the forestland is located in Antrim, Baraga,
19 Mason, or Menominee county.

20 (vii) 0.8, if the forestland is located in Keweenaw, Lake,
21 Missaukee, or Ontonagon county.

22 (4) The department shall publish all of the following on its
23 website:

24 (a) The calculation described in subsection (3)(a)(i) for each
25 county.

26 (b) The adjusted value and the inflation rate described in
27 subsection (3)(a)(ii) for each county.

1 (c) The average millage rate described in subsection (3)(b)
2 for each county.

3 (5) ~~Until 1 year after the effective date of the 2013~~
4 ~~amendatory act that amended this section, SEPTEMBER 1, 2015,~~ the
5 owner of forestland that is withdrawn from the classification as
6 commercial forest under this part is not subject to a withdrawal
7 penalty if all of the following occur:

8 (a) The owner of the forestland withdraws his or her
9 forestland from the classification as commercial forest under this
10 part as provided in this section.

11 (b) The former commercial forestland is placed on the
12 assessment roll in the local tax collecting unit in which the
13 former commercial forestland is located.

14 (c) The owner of the former commercial forestland claims and
15 is granted an exemption for that land from the tax levied by a
16 local school district for school operating purposes under section
17 7jj of the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.7jj[1].
18 The owner shall submit to the department a copy of the recorded
19 qualified forest school tax affidavit by December 31 of the year in
20 which the land is withdrawn from this part.

21 (6) An application to withdraw forestland from the
22 classification as commercial forest under this part that meets 1 or
23 more of the following requirements shall be granted without payment
24 of the withdrawal application fee or penalty under this section:

25 (a) Forestland that has been donated to a public body for
26 public use prior to withdrawal.

27 (b) Forestland that has been exchanged for property belonging

1 to a public body if the property received is classified as a
2 commercial forest as determined by the department.

3 (c) Forestland that has been condemned for public use.

4 (7) An application to withdraw forestland from the
5 classification as commercial forest under this part that meets all
6 of the following requirements shall be granted without payment of
7 the withdrawal application fee or penalty under this section:

8 (a) Evidence is submitted to the department that the land met
9 the legal requirements to be exempt from ad valorem property tax on
10 tax day for the tax year in which the list application was
11 submitted and approved and that the land would have met the legal
12 requirements to be exempt from ad valorem property tax on tax day
13 for each year that the land was classified as commercial forest
14 under this part, if the land had not been classified as commercial
15 forest under this part. As used in this subdivision, "tax day"
16 means that term as provided in section 2 of the general property
17 tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.2.

18 (b) The application is submitted to the department by the same
19 landowner that owned the land on tax day for the tax year in which
20 the application was submitted and that submitted the application
21 for determination under section 51103.

22 (c) The landowner reimburses the state treasurer for the
23 specific tax that was paid by the state treasurer to the county
24 treasurer, as provided in section 51106(1), for each tax year the
25 land was classified as commercial forest under this part.

26 (8) The department may withdraw forestland from the
27 classification as commercial forest under this part if the

1 forestland has been acquired by a federally recognized Indian tribe
2 and the associated property taxes are subsequently preempted under
3 federal law. A withdrawal under this subsection is not subject to
4 the withdrawal application fee or penalty under this section.

5 (9) The department shall remit the withdrawal application fee
6 paid pursuant to subsection (2) to the state treasurer for deposit
7 into the fund. The penalty received by the township treasurer under
8 subsection (3) shall be distributed by the township treasurer in
9 the same proportions to the various funds as the ad valorem general
10 property tax is allocated in the township, except as provided by
11 section 51109(2).

12 (10) If an application to withdraw forestland from
13 classification as commercial forest under this part is granted, the
14 department shall immediately notify the applicant, the supervisor
15 of the township, and the register of deeds of the county in which
16 the lands are located of the action and shall file with those
17 officials a list of the lands withdrawn.

18 (11) As used in this section:

19 (a) "Inflation rate" means the lesser of 1.05 or the inflation
20 rate as defined in section 34d of the general property tax act,
21 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.34d.

22 (b) "Valuation" means the market value as determined by the
23 state tax commission.