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:

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

CHAPTER 8.1
RHODE ISLAND FOREST CONSERVATION ACT

2.1-1. Short title.
This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Rhode Island Forest Conservation Act."

2.1-2. Purpose.
The purpose of this act is to prohibit any state economic and other incentives to develop or convert forest land for renewable energy uses.

As used in this chapter:

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

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

2.1-4. Protection of forested lands.
(a) State funds shall not be used for renewable energy facilities on forested lands.

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

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

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.
EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

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

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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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