

# ASSEMBLY, No. 4846

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 19, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman ERIC HOUGHTALING**

**District 11 (Monmouth)**

**Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER**

**District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblymen Simonsen and McClellan**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes working group to evaluate coordination and cooperation between various government entities and private landowners with respect to forest stewardship in pinelands area.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/29/2020)**

1 AN ACT concerning cooperation between various government  
2 entities and private landowners with respect to forest stewardship  
3 in the pinelands area.

4  
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:

7  
8 1. a. There is established in the Department of Environmental  
9 Protection the Pinelands Forest Stewardship Working Group. The  
10 working group shall evaluate coordination and cooperation between  
11 federal, State, and local government entities and private landowners  
12 with respect to the development and approval of forest stewardship  
13 plans in the pinelands area, and make recommendations as to how  
14 such coordination and cooperation can be improved so as to  
15 encourage and promote greater forest stewardship.

16 b. The working group shall consist of 14 members as follows:

17 (1) the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, the State  
18 Forester, the chairman of the Pineland Commission established  
19 pursuant to section 4 of P.L.1979, c.111 (C.13:18A-4), and the  
20 chairperson of the Pinelands Municipal Council established  
21 pursuant to section 6.1 of P.L.1979, c.111 (C.13:18A-7), or their  
22 designees, who shall serve ex officio;

23 (2) five members who shall be appointed by the Secretary of  
24 Agriculture, upon the recommendation of the State Board of  
25 Agriculture, as follows:

26 (a) two members from recognized Statewide nonprofit  
27 organizations that have demonstrated substantial work in the fields  
28 of environmental conservation or forest stewardship, as determined  
29 by the Secretary,

30 (b) two members who are private landowners in the pinelands  
31 area, and who have developed and implemented forest stewardship  
32 plans pursuant to P.L.2009, c.256 (C.13:1L-29 et seq.), and

33 (c) one member who is a certified forester; and

34 (3) five public members, including three appointed by the  
35 Governor, one appointed by the President of the Senate, and one  
36 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly.

37 c. All appointments to the working group shall be made no  
38 later than 90 days after the effective date of this act. Vacancies in  
39 the membership of the working group shall be filled in the same  
40 manner as the original appointments. The working group shall  
41 organize as soon as practicable following the appointment of its  
42 members, and the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, or  
43 the commissioner's designee, shall serve as chairperson. The  
44 chairperson may appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the  
45 working group.

46 d. The public members of the working group shall serve without  
47 compensation, but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred

1 in the performance of their duties, within the limits of funds made  
2 available to the working group for its purposes.

3 e. The working group shall be entitled to call to its assistance and  
4 avail itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or  
5 municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it may  
6 require and as may be available to it for its purposes.

7 f. The Department of Environmental Protection shall provide  
8 staffing and administrative support to the working group.

9 g. No later than one year after its organization, the working group  
10 shall prepare and submit to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of  
11 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature, a report  
12 containing the findings and recommendations of the working group,  
13 including any recommendations for legislative, regulatory, or local  
14 government action to improve coordination and cooperation  
15 between the federal, State, and local government entities and private  
16 landowners with regard to forest stewardship.

17 h. The working group shall expire 30 days after issuance of the  
18 report pursuant to subsection g. of this section.

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20 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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#### STATEMENT

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25 This bill would establish a working group to evaluate  
26 coordination and cooperation between federal, State, and local  
27 government entities and private landowners with respect to forest  
28 stewardship in the pinelands area. The working group would be  
29 responsible for making recommendations as to how coordination  
30 and cooperation between these parties could be improved so as to  
31 encourage and promote greater forest stewardship. The working  
32 group would be composed of 14 members representing various  
33 government entities, nonprofit organizations, private landowners,  
34 and foresters. No later than one year after its organization, the  
35 working group would be required to submit a report to the Governor  
36 and to the Legislature containing its findings and recommendations.