

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2021 REGULAR SESSION

ENGROSSED

Committee Substitute

for

House Bill 3072

BY DELEGATES STEELE AND FOSTER

[Originating in the Committee on Government

Organization; March 26, 2021]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
2 designated §19-1A-7, and to amend said code by adding thereto a new section designated
3 §30-19-18, both relating to permitting the Director of the Division of Forestry to maintain a
4 list of foresters in the state of West Virginia; defining the educational criteria for a person
5 to be considered a forester or forestry technician; allowing for rulemaking; and establishing
6 a sunset provision.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

CHAPTER 19. AGRICULTURE.

ARTICLE 1A. DIVISION OF FORESTRY.

§19-1A-7. Maintaining a voluntary list of foresters; rulemaking.

1 (a) The Director of the Division of Forestry may maintain a list of consulting foresters and
2 forest technicians in this state meeting the educational criteria to be considered a forester or forest
3 technician in this state and publish such list on its website in a clear location. To be considered a
4 forester, a person must have a four-year bachelor's degree or equivalent from an accredited
5 forestry or related program from any college or university or a combination of a two-year associate
6 degree or equivalent in a forestry technician or related program and relevant required work
7 experience. To be considered a forest technician, a person must hold a two-year associate degree
8 or equivalent from a school with an accredited forestry technician or related program.

9 (b) Any person who is or holds himself or herself out to be a forester or forest technician
10 may submit information reasonably required by the director to cause his or her name to be placed
11 on a list maintained on the Division of Forestry's website. Nothing in this section requires the
12 director to place a person on a voluntary list.

13 (c) The division may prescribe rules pursuant to §29A-3-1 et seq., of this code relating to
14 forms and applications to be placed on the list and may prescribe a rule to collect a fee from any
15 person desiring to be placed on the list for the sole purpose of cost recovery.

CHAPTER 30. PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS.

ARTICLE 19. FORESTERS.

§30-19-18. Sunset provision; effective date.

- 1 The state Board of Registration of Foresters established in this article shall terminate on
- 2 June 30, 2022, unless continued by the Legislature. Pursuant to the provisions of §4-10-12 and
- 3 §4-10-13 of this code the board shall commence all necessary activities pertinent to the wind-up
- 4 of all board related activities. This section shall become effective July 1, 2021.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to sunset the Board of Registered Foresters and to permit the Division of Forestry to maintain a voluntary list of foresters in this state that consumers may search to engage in certain forest activities.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.