

# SENATE BILL 695

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By: **Senators Carozza and Bailey**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2022

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – Voluntary Firewood Treatment Certification Program**  
3 **– Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Voluntary Firewood Treatment Certification Program  
5 in the Department of Natural Resources to certify forest product operators who  
6 export firewood to other states and use certain treatments to prevent the presence  
7 of certain pests and pathogens in the firewood products; and generally relating to  
8 firewood products.

9 BY adding to

10 Article – Natural Resources  
11 Section 5-608.1  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
15 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – Natural Resources**

17 **5-608.1.**

18 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “FOREST PRODUCT OPERATOR” MEANS A PERSON  
19 ENGAGED IN A FOREST PRODUCTS BUSINESS WHO IS LICENSED UNDER § 5-608 OF  
20 THIS SUBTITLE.

21 (B) THERE IS A VOLUNTARY FIREWOOD TREATMENT CERTIFICATION  
22 PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT.

23 (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO CERTIFY FOREST PRODUCT

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 OPERATORS WHO EXPORT FIREWOOD TO OTHER STATES AND USE HEAT TREATMENT  
2 AND OTHER PROCEDURES TO PREVENT THE PRESENCE OF WOOD BORING PEST  
3 INFESTATIONS, WOOD INHABITING PESTS, AND PLANT DISEASE PATHOGENS IN THE  
4 FIREWOOD PRODUCTS.

5 (D) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ISSUE A CERTIFICATION TO A FOREST PRODUCT  
6 OPERATOR IF:

7 (1) THE FOREST PRODUCT OPERATOR SUBMITS A COMPLETE  
8 APPLICATION FOR THE CERTIFICATION ON A FORM PROVIDED BY THE  
9 DEPARTMENT; AND

10 (2) THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES, ON INSPECTION, THAT THE  
11 FACILITY, EQUIPMENT, AND TREATMENT METHODS USED BY THE FOREST PRODUCT  
12 OPERATOR MEET THE CRITERIA FOR CERTIFICATION ESTABLISHED BY THE  
13 DEPARTMENT BY REGULATION.

14 (E) A CERTIFICATION ISSUED UNDER THIS SECTION:

15 (1) SHALL HAVE A TERM OF 1 YEAR;

16 (2) MAY INCLUDE ANY CONDITIONS THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS  
17 NECESSARY;

18 (3) MAY BE RENEWED IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS  
19 ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT;

20 (4) MAY NOT BE TRANSFERRED; AND

21 (5) MAY BE SUSPENDED OR REVOKED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR  
22 FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH:

23 (I) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION;

24 (II) A REGULATION ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT UNDER  
25 THIS SECTION; OR

26 (III) A CONDITION OR REQUIREMENT OF THE CERTIFICATION.

27 (F) (1) AT LEAST ONCE ANNUALLY AND AT ANY OTHER TIME THAT THE  
28 DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS NECESSARY, THE DEPARTMENT MAY INSPECT THE  
29 FACILITY AND EQUIPMENT USED BY A FOREST PRODUCT OPERATOR CERTIFIED  
30 UNDER THIS SECTION.

3 (G) THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF  
4 AGRICULTURE, SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF  
5 THIS SECTION, INCLUDING REGULATIONS THAT ESTABLISH:

6 (1) THE CRITERIA FOR CERTIFICATION UNDER THIS SECTION; AND

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
10 1, 2022.