

HOUSE BILL NO. 91

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE PEGGY WILSON

Introduced: 1/18/11

Referred: Resources, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to the regulatory and administrative standards for managing forest**
2 **resources."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** AS 41.17.060(b) is amended to read:

5 (b) With respect to state, municipal, and private forest land, the following
6 standards apply:

7 (1) to the maximum extent possible, all applicable data and
8 information of applicable disciplines shall be updated and used in making decisions
9 relative to the management of forest resources;

10 (2) environmentally sensitive areas shall be recognized in the
11 development of regulations and best management practices that are designed to
12 implement nonpoint source pollution control measures authorized under this chapter;

13 (3) administration of forest land shall consider marketing conditions
14 and other economic constraints affecting the forest landowner, timber owner, or the

operator;

(4) to the fullest extent practicable, harvested forest land shall be reforested, naturally or artificially, so as to result in a sustained yield of merchantable timber from that land; if artificial planting is required, silviculturally acceptable seedlings must first be available for planting at an economically fair price in the state; [AND]

(5) significant adverse effects of soil erosion and mass wasting on water quality and fish habitat shall be prevented or minimized;

(6) threats to public safety within one-half mile of a public road or adjacent to an area of human habitation shall be prevented or minimized;

(7) timber harvest and logging operations in or near an area of human habitation shall be subject to strict safety standards to protect human life and property on slopes of greater than 45 percent grade or 24 degree slope angle; when establishing the strict safety standards, the commissioner and the board shall consider factors affecting slope stability and risks to public safety, including

(A) soil types, particularly those with low or minimal cohesion, coarse textures and high permeabilities underlain by relatively impervious substrata that inhibit or stop vertical water movement through shallow overburden;

(B) ground disturbance and logging debris accumulations that may cause local slumping or formation of debris dams in existing gullies and shallow drainage channels;

(C) destruction or reduction of stabilizing root systems;

(D) increased potential for uprooting and overthrowing trees by wind because of increased wind exposure resulting from timber harvest or logging operations;

(E) the likelihood of higher groundwater levels and soil saturation from rainfall and snowmelt on slopes due to canopy removal and the uprooting and overthrowing of trees because of increased wind exposure;

(F) the presence of active and dormant debris flow and

1 debris torrent channels within a proposed harvest area; and
2 (G) the need for or the benefit from a site-specific risk
3 analysis; and
4 (8) the state forester shall give public notice to affected property
5 owners and local governing bodies of potential hazards of timber harvest and
6 logging operations that are subject to safety standards under (7) of this
7 subsection.