

SENATE BILL 518

By Tate

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 11  
and Title 69, Chapter 3, Part 1, relative to the  
practice of clear cutting in state forests.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 11, Chapter 4, Part 8, is amended by  
adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

11-4-8\_\_.

(a) The commissioner of agriculture shall prohibit the forestry practice of  
clear-cutting in all state forests. The department of agriculture shall not conduct  
clear-cutting operations in state forests, nor permit any other person or lessee to  
conduct clear-cutting operations in state forests.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a), clear-cutting may be  
permitted in state forests in cases of natural disaster or insect infestation  
provided that the department of agriculture has determined prior to any such  
clear-cutting that it is a reasonable and appropriate response to such disaster or  
infestation and that it is consistent with the department's duty to manage the  
forests. Such clear-cutting may occur only in a manner approved in advance by  
the department.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law and shall apply to all  
contracts and leases entered into on or after such date, the public welfare requiring it.