

## Article - Natural Resources

5-102.1.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION, THE TERM "PRACTICE OF FORESTRY" INCLUDES THE SAME ACTIVITIES REFERRED TO IN PRESCRIBED BY A LICENSED-PROFESSIONAL FORESTER IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7-101(E) OF THE BUSINESS OCCUPATIONS AND PROFESSIONS ARTICLE.

(2) "PRACTICE OF FORESTRY" DOES NOT INCLUDE THE CLEARING OF LAND AS A PRELUDE TO A CHANGE IN THE USE OF LAND.

(B) THE PRACTICE OF FORESTRY, WHEN PRACTICED AS PRESCRIBED BY A PERSON LICENSED AS A FORESTER UNDER TITLE 7 OF THE BUSINESS OCCUPATIONS AND PROFESSIONS ARTICLE AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACCEPTED SILVICULTURAL PRINCIPLES, AS DEFINED BY THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS, CONSTITUTES A TRADITIONAL, FUNDAMENTAL, BENEFICIAL, AND DESIRABLE USE OF THE STATE'S FOREST RESOURCE. THE LICENSED PRACTICE OF FORESTRY IS AN IMPORTANT LAND MANAGEMENT TOOL THAT CONTRIBUTES SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE ECONOMY OF THE STATE BY THE SUPPORT OF A VITAL FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY, AS WELL AS TO THE HEALTH OF FOREST AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES FORESTS AND THEIR WILDLIFE, WATER QUALITY, AND RECREATIONAL BENEFITS BY THE SUSTAINMENT OF FOREST PRODUCTIVITY AND WILDLIFE HABITATS.

(B) (C) IN MARYLAND, THE LICENSED PRACTICE OF FORESTRY ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING THE HARVEST AND TRANSPORT OF FOREST PRODUCTS, ARE IS OFTEN CARRIED OUT IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO POPULATED AREAS. OTHER THAN DEVELOPMENT FOR MORE INTENSIVE USES, THIS HARVEST OF TIMBER MAY REPRESENT THE ONLY A MAJOR SOURCE OF INCOME THAT IS AVAILABLE FOR THE PROFITABLE USE OF PRIVATE PROPERTY.

(C) (D) SINCE IT IS IN THE STATE AND PUBLIC INTERESTS TO PRESERVE FOREST THE FOREST LAND BASE AND OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES, A LOCAL GOVERNMENT WITH PLANNING AND ZONING POWERS SHALL SUPPORT THE LICENSED PRACTICE OF FORESTRY BY A REASONABLE EXERCISE OF THESE POWERS, INCLUDING THE CONSIDERATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND INTERPRETATION OF PLANNING AND ZONING REQUIREMENTS THAT BENEFICIALLY IMPACT THE EFFICIENT AND ECONOMIC PRACTICE OF FORESTRY IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VISIONS LISTED IN ARTICLE 66B, § 3.06(B) OF THE CODE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 1993.

Approved May 27, 1993.