



New York State YMCA
Youth And Government

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FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Liberty 6

Bill #: AL-41

1 **Sponsors:** Zachary Phelps, Dave Rakhymzhan, Tiffany Brace, Jordan Colon

2
3 **An Act To** Amend § 9-0501 of the Environmental Conservation Law regarding
4 classification of Forest Preserve and State Forest.

5
6 ***The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:***
7

8 **Purpose** To mandate that all lands in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks purchased
9 by the State in the future are classified as State Forest, where the Department of
10 Environmental Conservation manages the forests.

11
12 **Summary of Provisions**

13 **Section 1: Definitions**

14 **Ecological Succession: the process of change in the species structure of an**
15 **ecological community over time**

16 **Climax Community: final stage in ecological succession**

17 **Section 2:**

18 § 9-0501. Power to acquire reforestation areas; prohibition against
19 compensation or gratuity.

20 1. In order to provide for the acquisition of lands outside of the Adirondack park
21 and the Catskill park, which are adapted for reforestation and the establishment
22 and maintenance thereon of forests for watershed protection, the production of
23 timber and other forest products, and for recreation and kindred purposes, the
24 department may acquire in the name of the state, by gift, purchase or
25 appropriation, reforestation areas which shall consist respectively of not less than
26 five hundred acres of contiguous lands, which shall be forever devoted to the
27 planting, growth and harvesting of such trees as shall be deemed by the
28 commissioner best suited for the lands to be reforested.

29 **2. Lands inside of the Adirondack park and the Catskill park purchased by the**
30 **State after January 1, 2020 will be managed by the Department of Environmental**
31 **Conservation and to be classified as a "State Forest" and will be regulated in the**
32 **same manner as other State Forests located outside of the Blue Line, and will**
33 **permit the harvesting of timber.**

34
35 **Justification**

36 Keeping forest land forever wild is unhealthy and creates an unstable environment.
37 A forest at its climax community chokes out new growth and creates a layer of
38 highly burnable material on the forest floor. State Forests use timber management



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39 as a tool to enhance biodiversity and to create habitat features that might be
40 lacking in the landscape. In addition, the economies of the parks will be stimulated
41 by an increase in foresting jobs. Currently, the population in the parks has high
42 senior citizen percentages. Logging has been a base of employment for generations
43 and will attract young families into the park.

44

45 **Fiscal Implications**

46 The Department of Environmental Conservation will receive the profits for the
47 timber sold from the land. The revival of the logging industry will stimulate the
48 economies of the Adirondack and Catskill parks.

49

50 **Effective Date**

51 This bill will go into effect one year after passage.