

## 2001 SESSION

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### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 779

Offered January 19, 2001

*Requesting the Board for Professional and Occupational Regulation to study the feasibility of regulating foresters.*

Patron—Deeds

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, forestry embraces the science, art and practice of creating, managing, using and conserving forests and associated resources for human benefit and in a sustainable manner to meet desired goals, needs and values; and

WHEREAS, forest management involves the practical application of biological, physical, quantitative, managerial, economic, social and policy principles to the regeneration, management, utilization and conservation of forests to meet specified goals and objectives while maintaining the productivity of the forest including management for aesthetics, fish, recreation, urban values, water, wilderness, wildlife, wood products and other forest resource values; and

WHEREAS, foresters render services to landowners that require knowledge of the principles of forestry and forest management; and

WHEREAS, these services include consultation, investigation, evaluation, planning and other activities that contribute to the visual character and environmental health and quality of the Commonwealth and the convenience and enjoyment of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, in certain instances, the improper provision of forestry services by foresters may present the threat of irreparable damage to property and the health of the environment; and

WHEREAS, currently foresters are not regulated; and

WHEREAS, the absence of any regulation may not adequately protect the citizens of the Commonwealth from unqualified persons practicing forestry; and

WHEREAS, the Board for Professional and Occupational Regulation is authorized by § 54.1-310 of the Code of Virginia to evaluate professions and occupations for consideration of whether such professions and occupations should be regulated, and to make recommendations as the public interest requires to the General Assembly concerning such regulation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Board for Professional and Occupational Regulation be requested to evaluate the need for and recommend the degree of regulation of foresters, if any, in the Commonwealth.

All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Board for this study, upon request.

The Board shall complete its work in time to submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the 2002 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents.

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