1	2015 Session of the General Assembly
2 3	Forest Products Tax
4 5 6 7	A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 58.1-1601, 58.1-1602, 58.1-1604, 58.1-1605, 58.1-1612, and 58.1-1617 of the Code of Virginia; and to repeal §§ 58.1-1613, 58.1-1614, and 58.1-1622 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the forest products tax.
8	Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:
9	1. That §§ 58.1-1601, 58.1-1602, 58.1-1604, 58.1-1605, 58.1-1612, and 58.1-1617 of
10	the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:
11	§ 58.1-1601. Definitions.
12	As used in this chapter, unless the context clearly shows otherwise, the term or phrase:
13	"Fixed place of business" means a mill, plant, yard or other location at which occurs a
14	regular and continuous course of dealing. The use of portable machinery or equipment at the
15	place of severance does not constitute a fixed place of business.
16	"F.o.b. loading out point" means loaded on a railroad car, loaded on a barge or boat, or
17	delivered to place of use by truck.
18	"Forest product" includes all types of forest products, means wood, derived from trees
19	severed in Virginia for commercial purposes, of any type or form, including but is not limited to
20	logs, timber, pulpwood, excelsior wood, chemical wood, woodchips, bolts, billets, crossties,
21	switch ties, poles, piles, fuel wood, posts, all cooperage products, tanbark, mine ties, mine props
22	and all other types of forest products used in mines.
23	"Manufacturer" means the person who: (i) operates a sawmill for the sawing of logs into
24	rough lumber in its various sizes and forms, (ii) operates a cooperage mill, veneer mill, excelsior
25	mill, paper mill, chipmill, chemical plant or other operation for the processing of forest products
26	into products other than lumber, (iii) purchases from the person who severs crossties, switch ties,
27	mine ties, mine props, and other forest products used in connection with mining, piles or poles,
28	except fish net poles, or (iv) severs posts, fuel wood, fish net poles and similar products any
29	person who for commercial purposes at a fixed place of business (i) processes forest products
30	into various sizes and forms, including chips, (ii) processes forest products into other products,
31	(iii) uses or consumes forest products, or (iv) stores forest products for sale or shipment.

32 "Severer" means any person <u>in this Commonwealth</u> who fells, cuts or otherwise separates
 33 timber or any other such forest product from the soil.

34 § 58.1-1602. Levy of tax for forest conservation.

35 A. To provide further for the conservation of the natural resources of the Commonwealth by 36 the protection and development of forest resources and reforestation of forest lands, there is 37 hereby levied, in addition to all other taxes imposed, a forest products tax on all forest products. 38 The tax shall be paid once, and only once, on any forest product. Unless the tax has previously 39 been paid by a severer, the tax shall be paid by every person engaged in this Commonwealth in 40 business as a manufacturer or shipper of forest products for sale, profit, or commercial use the 41 first manufacturer using, consuming, processing, or storing forest products. No manufacturer 42 shall be liable for the tax if he has received proper documentation from a severer that the tax has 43 been paid as provided in subsection B. A severer who sells or delivers forest products to any 44 person who is not a manufacturer registered for the tax shall be liable for the tax. A signed 45 agreement between the severer and a manufacturer stating that the manufacturer is registered and liable for the tax on any forest products sold or delivered to the manufacturer shall relieve the 46 47 severer of liability for the tax on such forest products. 48 B. Each manufacturer purchasing or receiving forest products upon which the tax imposed by 49 this chapter has been paid must obtain written documentation, such as a signed agreement, bill of 50 sale, or invoice from the severer showing his (i) name, address, and Virginia Forest Products Tax 51 registration number, (ii) the date of sale, (iii) a description of the products, and (iv) a statement 52 that the Virginia Forest Products Tax has been paid. 53 C. Any out-of-state manufacturer may register to pay the forest products tax and shall be 54 liable for the tax until, upon his request or otherwise, his registration is terminated by the 55 Department. 56 § 58.1-1604. Tax rates. 57 The tax hereby imposed shall be assessed at the following rates:

1. On pine lumber in its various sizes and forms, including railroad switch ties, bridge timber,
and dimension stock, the rate per 1000 board feet measure shall be \$1.15; or at the election of the
taxpayer, 20 cent(s) per ton of logs received.

61 2. On hardwood, cypress and all other species of lumber the rate per 1000 board feet measure
62 shall be 22 1/2 cent(s); or at the election of the taxpayer, 4 cent(s) per ton of logs received.

3. On timber sold as logs and not converted into lumber or other products in the
Commonwealth, the rate per 1000 feet log scale, International 1/4" Kerf Rule, shall be \$1.15 on
pine; and 22 1/2 cent(s) on other species; or at the election of the taxpayer, 20 cent(s) per ton of
pine logs received; and 4 cent(s) per ton of logs of other species received.

4. On logs to be converted into veneer the rate per 1000 board feet log scale, International
1/4" Kerf Rule, shall be \$1.15 for pine and 22 1/2 cent(s) for other species; or at the election of
the taxpayer, 20 cent(s) per ton of pine logs received; and 4 cent(s) per ton of logs of other
species received.

5. On pulpwood, excelsior wood, chemical wood, bolts or billets, fuel wood, tanbark, and other products customarily sold by the cord, the rate per standard cord of 128 cubic feet shall be 47 1/2 cent(s) for pine, 11 1/4 cent(s) per cord on all other species; or at the election of the taxpayer, 20 cent(s) per ton of pine logs received; and 4 cent(s) per ton of logs of other species received.

6. On chips manufactured from roundwood and customarily sold by the pound, the rate per
100 pounds shall be 0.986 cent(s) for pine, and 0.234 cent(s) for other species, and XXX cent(s)
for loads consisting of both pine and other species. On chips sold to a manufacturer for fuel to
be used or consumed by the manufacturer, the rate per 100 pounds shall be XXX cent(s).

7. On railroad crossties the rate per piece shall be 3 8/10 cent(s) on pine, and one cent on all
other species; or at the election of the taxpayer, 20 cent(s) per ton of pine logs received; and 4
cent(s) per ton of logs of other species received.

83 8. On posts, mine ties, mine props, round mine collars, and other types of timber used in 84 connection with mining and ordinarily sold by the piece, the rate per 100 pieces shall be as 85 follows: 38 cent(s) for pine, and 9 cent(s) for other species, where each piece is 4' or less in 86 length; 61 3/4 cent(s) for pine and 14 1/4 cent(s) for other species, where each piece is more than 87 4' but not over 8' in length; and 76 cent(s) for pine and 18 cent(s) for other species, where each 88 piece is more than 8' in length. If the taxpayer so elects, he may pay the taxes due on the above 89 forest products at the rate of \$1.045 for pine and 24 3/4 cent(s) for other species, per 1000 lineal 90 feet; or at the election of the taxpayer, 20 cent(s) per ton of pine logs received; and 4 cent(s) per
91 ton of logs of other species received.

92 9. On piling and poles of all types the rate shall equal 2.31 percent of invoice value f.o.b.
93 loading out point; or at the election of the taxpayer, 20 cent(s) per ton of pine logs received; and
94 4 cent(s) per ton of logs of other species received.

10. On keg staves the rate per standard 400-inch bundle shall be 3 8/10 cent(s) for pine and 1
1/2 cent(s) for other species; the rate per 100 keg heads shall be 11 5/10 cent(s) on pine and 4 1/2
cent(s) for other species; and on tight cooperage, 4 1/2 cent(s) per 100 staves and 9 cent(s) per
100 heads; or at the election of the taxpayer, 20 cent(s) per ton of pine logs received; and 4
cent(s) per ton of logs of other species received.

100 11. On any other type of forest product not herein enumerated, severed or separated from the 101 soil, the Commissioner shall determine a fair unit tax rate, based on the cubic foot wood volume 102 relationship between the product and the cubic foot volume of 1000 feet board measure of pine 103 when the product is pine, or on the unit rate of cedar or hardwood lumber when the product is a 104 species other than pine.

105 § 58.1-1605. Alternative for rates.

106 On or before November 1, in the last year of each biennium, the State Forester shall submit 107 to the Governor a report of the total revenues collected from the forest products tax for the 108 immediately preceding two years. If the General Assembly fails to appropriate for such next 109 biennium from the general fund for the reforestation of timberland activity a sum which equals 110 or exceeds such revenues, the tax hereby imposed shall, beginning on July 1 of such next 111 biennium, be at the rates set forth below. Such rates shall remain in effect until an appropriation 112 from the general fund for any biennium equals or exceeds the revenues actually collected from 113 this tax for the immediately preceding biennium at the rates imposed by § 58.1-1604.

1. On pine lumber in its various sizes and forms, including railroad switch ties, bridge timber,
and dimension stock the rate per 1000 board feet measure shall be 15 cent(s); or at the election of
the taxpayer, 2 6/10 cent(s) per ton of pine logs received.

2. On hardwood, cypress, and all other species of lumber the rate per 1000 board feet
measure shall be 22 1/2 cent(s); or at the election of the taxpayer, 4 cent(s) per ton of logs
received.

3. On timber sold as logs and not converted into lumber or other products in this
Commonwealth, the rate per 1000 log feet scale, International 1/4" Kerf Rule, shall be 15 cent(s)
on pine and 22 1/2 cent(s) on other species; or at the election of the taxpayer, 2 6/10 cent(s) per
ton of pine logs received; and 4 cent(s) per ton of logs of other species received.

4. On logs to be converted into veneer the rate per 1000 board feet log scale, International
1/4" Kerf Rule, shall be 15 cent(s) for pine, and 22 1/2 cent(s) for other species; or at the election
of the taxpayer, 2 6/10 cent(s) per ton of pine logs received; and 4 cent(s) per ton of logs of other
species received.

5. On pulpwood, excelsior wood, chemical wood, bolts or billets, fuel wood, tanbark, and other products customarily sold by the cord, the rate per standard cord of 128 cubic feet shall be 7 1/2 cent(s) for pine and 11 1/4 cent(s) per cord on all other species; or at the election of the taxpayer, 2 6/10 cent(s) per ton of pine logs received; and 4 cent(s) per ton of logs of other species received.

6. On chips manufactured from roundwood and customarily sold by the pound, the rate per
100 pounds shall be 0.156 cent(s) for pine, and 0.234 cent(s) for other species, and XXX cent(s)
for loads consisting of both pine and other species. On chips sold to a manufacturer for fuel to
be used or consumed by the manufacturer, the rate per 100 pounds shall be XXX cent(s).

7. On railroad crossties, the rate shall be one-half cent per piece on species of pine and one
cent per piece on all other species; or at the election of the taxpayer, 2 6/10 cent(s) per ton of
pine logs received; and 4 cent(s) per ton of logs of other species received.

8. On posts, mine ties, mine props, round mine collars, and other types of timber used in connection with mining and ordinarily sold by the piece, the rate per 100 pieces shall be as follows: 6 cent(s) for pine and 9 cent(s) for other species, where each piece is 4' or less in length; 9 3/4 cent(s) for pine and 14 1/4 cent(s) for other species, where each piece is more than 4' in length but not over 8' in length; and 12 cent(s) for pine and 18 cent(s) for other species, where each piece is more than 8' in length. If the taxpayer so elects, he may pay the taxes due on the abovementioned forest products at the rate of 16 1/2 cent(s) per 1000 lineal feet for pine and 24
3/4 cent(s) for other species; or at the election of the taxpayer, 2 6/10 cent(s) per ton of pine logs
received; and 4 cent(s) per ton of logs of other species received.

9. On piling and poles of all types the rate shall equal two-sevenths of one percent of invoice
value f.o.b. loading out point; or at the election of the taxpayer, 2 6/10 cent(s) per ton of pine
logs received; and 4 cent(s) per ton of logs of other species received.

152 10. On keg staves the rate per standard 400-inch bundle shall be 1 1/2 cent(s); the rate per
153 100 keg heads shall be 4 1/2 cent(s); and on tight cooperage, 4 1/2 cent(s) per 100 staves and 9
154 cent(s) per 100 heads; or at the election of the taxpayer, 2 6/10 cent(s) per ton of pine logs
155 received; and 4 cent(s) per ton of logs of other species received.

156 11. On any other type of forest product not herein enumerated, severed or separated from the 157 soil the Commissioner shall determine a fair unit tax rate, based on the cubic foot wood volume 158 relationship between the product and the cubic foot volume of 1000 board feet measure of pine 159 lumber when the product is pine or on the unit rate of hardwood lumber when the product is a 160 species other than pine.

161 § 58.1-1612. Returns to be filed by manufacturer; time of payment of tax.

Every manufacturer or severer liable for the forest products tax, within thirty days after the expiration of each quarter, expiring respectively on the last day of March, June, September, and December of each year, shall file with the Department a return on forms prescribed by the Department showing:

166 1. The kinds and gross quantity of forest products manufactured severed, used, consumed,

167 processed or stored during the preceding quarter upon which they are liable for the tax;

168 2. The county or counties in which such products were severed from the soil;

169 3. The gross quantity of forest products severed from soil outside this Commonwealth; and

4. Other reasonable and necessary information pertaining thereto as the Department may

171 require for the proper enforcement of the provisions of this chapter.

172 At the time of rendering such quarterly returns, the manufacturer <u>or severer liable for the tax</u> 173 shall pay to the Department the forest products tax imposed by this chapter, with respect to <u>on</u> all

174 forest products severed from the soil in this Commonwealth and embraced in such return.

175 § 58.1-1617. Records to be kept.

176 It shall be the duty of every manufacturer or severer in this Commonwealth and of every 177 shipper who shall ship forest products out of this Commonwealth in an unmanufactured 178 condition, to keep and preserve records and other such books or accounts as may be necessary to 179 determine the amount of tax for which he is liable, under the provisions of this chapter. Such 180 records shall be organized so that the forest products handled are grouped into classifications 181 which conform to the various tax rates levied by this chapter. Such records and books shall be 182 kept and preserved for a period of three years, and shall be open for examination at any time by 183 the Department or its duly authorized agents.

184 2. That §§ 58.1-1613, 58.1-1614, and 58.1-1622 of the Code of Virginia are repealed.

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