

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

A Bill

SENATE BILL 249

By: Senator Stone

By: Representative Beaty Jr.

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES RELATED TO FORESTRY; TO AMEND THE POWERS OF THE ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES RELATED TO FORESTRY; AND TO AMEND THE POWERS OF THE ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-31-105(a), concerning violations and penalties related to forestry, is amended to read as follows:

~~(a)(1) Any person required to be registered under this chapter shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor if that person~~ The Arkansas Forestry Commission may impose a civil penalty not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) on a person required to be registered under this chapter if that person:

~~(1)(A)~~ Practices or offers to practice forestry without a valid certificate of registration issued pursuant to this chapter;

~~(2)(B)~~ Claims to be a forester certified under this chapter without being so certified;

~~(3)(C)~~ In any way tends to convey the impression that he or she is a forester certified under the provisions of this chapter without being so registered;



~~(4)(D)~~ Uses as his or her own the certificate of registration of another;

~~(5)(E)~~ Gives false or forged evidence to the Department of Agriculture or the ~~Arkansas Forestry Commission~~ commission;

~~(6)(F)~~ Uses an expired or revoked certificate; or

~~(7)(G)~~ Violates any provision of this chapter.

(2) In addition to a civil penalty under subdivision (a)(1) of this section, a person who violates subdivision (a)(1) of this section upon conviction is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 17-31-204, concerning the powers of the Arkansas Forestry Commission, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

(d) The commission may promulgate rules to establish a penalty matrix for violations of the offenses under § 17-31-105(a).

APPROVED: 3/12/25