

**CHAPTER 157**

**PARKS, TREES AND PLAYGROUNDS**

**SUBCHAPTER 1**

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**§3252. Preservation of trees along public ways and water**

**1. Creation of preserved lands.** For the purpose of preserving and increasing the growth of trees on land abutting any public way or located on uplands adjoining any river or other body of water, municipalities and municipal officers, acting under section 3101, may set aside and define such land, not exceeding 5 rods in width. Any municipality may appropriate money for the purposes of this section.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Regulation of lands.** All trees and shrubs growing on the land set aside under subsection 1 shall be held as for park purposes. Except as provided in this section, no owner in fee of this land or any other person may injure, remove or destroy these trees or shrubs. Municipal officers may grant written license to the owner to do cutting and clearing on the land when consistent with the preservation and general improvement of the growth on the land.

Except as provided, this section does not restrict the owner's use and enjoyment of the land or authorize any person to enter on the land, except for municipal officers and conservation commissioners and their agents for the purposes of this section.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**3. Proceedings; compensation.** All proceedings relating to estimating and awarding damages under this section are governed by section 3101.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**4. Public ways, private ways and buildings.** Provided the written consent of the municipal officers is obtained first, this section does not:

A. Prevent the taking and clearing of any of the land set aside under subsection 1 that is necessary for public ways; nor [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. Abridge the right of the owner or the owner's tenant to lay out a private way across that land or to clear and improve any of the land that is necessary for actual building purposes.

(1) If the municipal officers refuse to give consent for laying out a private way or for cutting and clearing any of the land that is necessary for immediate building purposes, when requested to do so in writing, that refusal is ground for a further award of damages to the owner as provided in subsection 3. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**5. Violation.** Whoever violates this section:

A. Commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture of not more than \$100 may be adjudged; and [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. Is liable to a civil action, brought by the conservation commissioners or by a taxpayer in the name and for the benefit of the municipality in which the offense is committed, for all damages sustained. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]  
[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

## SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

**§3253. Safe zones designated by municipality**

A municipality may designate an area of the municipality that is frequented by minors as a safe zone under Title 17-A, section 1101, subsection 23. A safe zone designated pursuant to this section must be conspicuously marked by the municipality with an informational sign using wording provided by the Commissioner of Public Safety. [PL 2005, c. 415, §5 (NEW).]

## SECTION HISTORY

PL 2005, c. 415, §5 (NEW).

**SUBCHAPTER 2****CONSERVATION COMMISSIONERS****§3261. Conservation commissions**

Unless otherwise provided under their home rule authority, municipalities may establish conservation commissions as provided in this section. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**1. Appointment of commissioners.** The municipal officers may appoint at least 3, but not more than 7, conservation commissioners. Members shall initially be appointed for terms of one, 2 and 3 years, such that the terms of approximately 1/3 of the members will expire each year. Their successors shall be appointed for terms of 3 years each. Members shall serve until the appointment of their successors.

The commission may recommend to the municipal officers that associate members be appointed to assist the commission as the commission requires. Associate members are nonvoting members. Their terms of office shall be for one, 2 or 3 years.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Duties of commission.** The commission shall:

A. Keep records of its meetings and activities and make an annual report to the municipality; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. Conduct research, in conjunction with the planning board, if any, into the local land areas; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

C. Seek to coordinate the activities of conservation bodies organized for similar purposes; and [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

D. Keep an index of all open areas within the municipality, whether publicly or privately owned, including open marshlands, swamps and other wetlands, for the purpose of obtaining information relating to the proper protection, development or use of those open areas. The commission may recommend to the municipal officers or any municipal body or board, or any body politic or public agency of the State, a program for the better protection, development or use of those areas, which may include the acquisition of conservation easements.

(1) Any body politic or public agency of the State conducting planning operations with respect to open areas within a municipality having a conservation commission shall notify that conservation commission of all plans and planning operations at least 30 days before implementing any action under that plan. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**3. Powers of commission.** The commission may:

A. Advertise, prepare, print and distribute books, maps, charts, plans and pamphlets which it considers necessary; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. Have the care and superintendence of the public parks and, subject to the approval of the municipal officers, direct the expenditure of all money appropriated for the improvement of those parks; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

C. Acquire land in the municipality's name for any of the purposes set forth in this section with the approval of the municipal legislative body; and [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

D. Receive gifts in the municipality's name for any of the commission's purposes and shall administer the gift for those purposes subject to the terms of the gift. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**4. Park commission under previous law.** This section does not require a municipality which has previously created a park commission under prior law to establish a conservation commission. Any such park commission previously created may continue to operate as originally established.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

**§3262. Failure to elect; function of municipal officers**

If any municipality fails to appoint a board of conservation commissioners, the municipal officers shall have and exercise all the powers and duties of the commissioners, except as provided in sections 3263 and 3264 and subchapter IV. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

## SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

**§3263. Supervision of shade trees**

All public shade trees may be under the care and control of conservation commissioners in municipalities which appoint those commissioners under this subchapter. The conservation commissioners may have the powers and duties of tree wardens in regard to those trees. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

## SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

**§3264. Park commissioners**

**1. Park commissioners; appointment.** Notwithstanding section 3261, municipalities may elect or appoint 5 park commissioners, initially to hold office for one, 2, 3, 4 and 5 years, respectively. Their successors shall be appointed for terms of 5 years each. Members shall serve until the appointment of their successors.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Duties.** The park commissioners shall:

A. Have the care and superintendence of the public parks; and [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. Subject to the approval of the municipal officers, direct the expenditure of all money appropriated or available for the improvement of those parks. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

## SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

**SUBCHAPTER 3****ENERGY COMMISSIONERS****§3271. Energy commissions**

Unless otherwise provided under their home rule authority, municipalities may establish energy commissions as provided in this section. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**1. Appointment of commissioners.** The municipal officers may appoint at least 3, but not more than 7, energy commissioners. Members shall initially be appointed for terms of one, 2 and 3 years, such that the terms of approximately 1/3 of the members will expire each year. Their successors shall be appointed for terms of 3 years each. Members shall serve until the appointment of their successors. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Combination with conservation commission.** Notwithstanding sections 3261 to 3264, municipal officials may combine the duties of a municipal energy commission with those of an existing conservation commission to create an entity with responsibilities for a wide range of energy and conservation issues.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### §3272. Purpose; activities

**1. Purposes.** The purposes of the municipal energy commission may include the following:

A. To study and recommend energy policies to the municipal officers, body or board and to the planning board, if any; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. To reduce energy consumption in the municipality by encouraging energy conservation and better energy management; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

C. To promote efforts to increase community energy self-sufficiency through the development of safe, efficient and renewable energy resources; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

D. To provide leadership and direction for local energy conservation education; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

E. To work with other public and private organizations to secure funding and other resources for local energy projects and employment; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

F. To coordinate their efforts with those of other local, regional and state organizations; and [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

G. To serve other purposes related to energy as specified by the municipality. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Activities.** The commission may undertake the following activities.

A. The commission may seek technical assistance from the Department of Economic and Community Development. That department shall notify local energy commissions, in writing, of plans and projects that may affect those commissions, if the commission so requests. [PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 501, Pt. DD, §34 (AMD).]

B. In conjunction with the planning board, if any, the commission may promote and conduct research, in furtherance of its purposes, in the following areas:

- (1) Public transportation;
- (2) Van pools and car pools;
- (3) Recycling;
- (4) Solar power;
- (5) Cogeneration;
- (6) Hydro-electric power;
- (7) Energy audits;
- (8) Energy conservation; and
- (9) Other activities that will make the municipality more energy self-sufficient through the use of renewable energy resources. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 501, Pt. DD, §34 (AMD).]

**3. Notice of formation; records, annual report.** The commission shall notify the Department of Economic and Community Development of its formation. The commission shall keep records of its meetings and activities and shall make an annual report to the municipality.

[PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 501, Pt. DD, §35 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 501, §§DD34,DD35 (AMD).

### SUBCHAPTER 4

#### PUBLIC SHADE TREES

##### §3281. Public shade trees

All trees within or upon the limits of any highway are public shade trees. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

### **§3282. Appointment and duties of tree wardens**

The municipal officers of municipalities which have not appointed conservation commissioners under subchapter II may annually appoint one or more tree wardens who have the care and control of all public shade trees upon and along the highways and in the parks of the municipality and all streets within any village limits. They shall enforce all laws relating to the preservation of those trees. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

### **§3283. Removal of trees**

Public shade trees may be trimmed, cut down or removed by the owner of the land only with the consent of a tree warden or the conservation commission. Public shade trees may be trimmed, cut down or removed by a tree warden or conservation commissioner only with the consent of the landowner. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**1. Trimming, cutting or removal authorized.** This section does not prevent the trimming, cutting or removal of trees when the trimming, cutting or removal is ordered by proper authority to:

A. Lay out, alter or widen the location of highways; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. Lessen the danger of travel on highways; or [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

C. Suppress tree pests or insects. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

### **§3284. Injury or destruction to trees; penalty**

Whoever trims, cuts or otherwise damages or destroys a public shade tree commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture of not less than \$5 nor more than \$25 may be adjudged. The forfeiture shall be paid to the municipality in which the offense is committed and expended by that municipality for the purposes specified in this subchapter and section 3263. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

## SUBCHAPTER 5

## FUNDS

**§3291. Cutting and removal of trees and brush**

**1. Initial cutting by municipality.** A municipality may each year set aside a portion of the money raised and appropriated for ways and bridges, to be used to cut and remove all trees, shrubs and useless fruit trees, bushes and weeds, except shade trees, timber trees, cared-for fruit trees and ornamental shrubs growing between the road limit and the wrought part of any highway or town way, until all the trees, shrubs and worthless fruit trees, bushes and weeds have been once removed from the limits of the highway or town way.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Maintenance of cleared land.** After the land has been initially cleared, the owner of the land adjoining the highway or town way shall each year, before the first day of October, remove all bushes, weeds, worthless trees and grass from the roadside adjoining the owner's cultivated or mowing fields. The municipality shall care for all other land, except wild land.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**3. Violation.** If any owner of land required to be maintained under subsection 2 fails to do so before the first day of October of each year, the municipal officers of the municipality in which the land is located shall have the bushes, weeds, worthless trees and grass cut and removed. The actual expense of this cutting and removal shall be a lien upon the land adjoining the highway or town way and shall be assessed and collected as a tax on that land.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

## SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

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