

By: Senator(s) Posey, Woodfield, Dearing,
Thames, Canon, Stogner, Harvey, Huggins

To: Wildlife and
Fisheries

SENATE BILL NO. 2436

1 AN ACT TO AMEND CHAPTER 478, GENERAL LAWS OF 1998, TO EXTEND
2 THE LIFE OF THE JOINT NATURAL AND SCENIC RIVER STUDY COMMITTEE FOR
3 ONE YEAR; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

5 SECTION 1. Chapter 478, General Laws of 1998, is amended as
6 follows:

7 Section 1. (1) There is hereby created a natural and scenic
8 river study committee. The committee shall consist of the
9 following members: (a) the Chairman of the House Game and Fish
10 Committee and two (2) members of the Game and Fish Committee
11 appointed by the chairman; the Chairman of the House Conservation
12 and Water Resources Committee and two (2) members of the
13 Conservation and Water Resources Committee appointed by the
14 chairman; the Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee and two
15 (2) members of the Agriculture Committee appointed by the
16 chairman; and (b) the Chairman of the Senate Wildlife and
17 Fisheries Committee and two (2) members of the Wildlife and
18 Fisheries Committee appointed by the chairman; the Chairman of the
19 Senate Environmental Protection, Conservation and Water Resources
20 Committee and two (2) members of the Environmental Protection,
21 Conservation and Water Resources appointed by the chairman; the
22 Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee and two (2) members
23 of the Agriculture Committee appointed by the chairman. The
24 committee is hereby created, continued and reconstituted and shall
25 continue to function until it is dissolved under subsection (5).

26 The Chairman of the House Game and Fish Committee and the

27 Chairman of the Senate Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks Committee
28 shall serve as cochair of the study committee.

29 For attending meetings of the committee, each legislative
30 member shall be paid per diem in the amount authorized by Section
31 25-3-69 and a mileage allowance and an expense allowance in the
32 amount authorized by Section 5-1-47 from the contingent expense
33 fund of his respective house. However, no per diem, mileage
34 allowance or expense allowance shall be paid for attending
35 meetings of the committee while the Legislature is in session, and
36 no per diem, mileage allowance or expense allowance shall be paid
37 without prior approval of the proper committee in the member's
38 respective house.

39 (2) In conducting its activities, the committee may elicit
40 the support of and participation by any commercial, industrial,
41 governmental, environmental, minority and public interest
42 organizations and associations, or individual members thereof, and
43 any federal, state and local agencies and political subdivisions
44 as may be necessary or appropriate in the furtherance of the
45 study.

46 (3) The Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks shall
47 coordinate the study of certain natural and scenic rivers in the
48 state. The study shall be conducted in order to assess and
49 document the ecological, scenic, recreational and natural
50 characteristics of these rivers; to consider the feasibility of a
51 program for conserving the quality of scenic rivers; to recommend
52 a plan of nonregulatory incentive programs to encourage landowner
53 participation in any stream protection program that may be
54 recommended; to ensure any activities on a natural and scenic
55 river shall be according to best management practices; to ensure
56 that any natural and scenic river program shall be administered
57 solely by the State of Mississippi.

58 (4) The committee shall seek public oral and written
59 comments on the scenic rivers.

60 (5) The committee shall prepare a report of the study with
61 recommendations and file the report with the Legislature by
62 January 4, 2000. Upon presentation of its report to the
63 Legislature, the committee shall be dissolved.

64 (6) For purpose of the study, a "natural and scenic river"
65 means a river, stream or bayou or segment thereof that is in a
66 free-flowing condition, that has not been channelized, cleared and
67 snagged within the past five (5) years, realigned, inundated or
68 otherwise altered and has a shoreline covered by native vegetation
69 and has no or few man-made structures along its banks.

70 Section 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
71 and after its passage.

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73 and after its passage.