

By: Carlton

To: Finance

SENATE BILL NO. 2158
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ANY COUNTY IN
2 THE YAZOO BASIN, YAZOO BACKWATER, MISSISSIPPI, PROJECT AREA, TO
3 REQUIRE LANDOWNERS WHO SELL REFORESTATION EASEMENTS IN SUCH
4 PROJECT AREA TO ANNUALLY PAY A FEE ON EACH ACRE OF PROPERTY FOR
5 WHICH A LANDOWNER SOLD SUCH AN EASEMENT FOR PURPOSES SPECIFICALLY
6 RELATED TO THE PROJECT; TO LIMIT THE AMOUNT OF SUCH FEE; TO
7 PROVIDE THAT THE PROCEEDS OF THE FEE SHALL BE USED BY THE BOARD OF
8 SUPERVISORS TO PROVIDE SERVICES SUCH AS ROAD MAINTENANCE, FIRE
9 PROTECTION AND POLICE PROTECTION AND OTHER SERVICES NECESSARY FOR
10 THE MAINTENANCE AND PROTECTION OF REFORESTATION EASEMENTS IN THE
11 PROJECT AREA; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

13 SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:

14 (a) "Project" means the Yazoo Basin, Yazoo Backwater,
15 Mississippi, Project authorized by the Flood Control Act of 18
16 August 1941 and the Water Resources Development Act of 1986.

17 (b) "Project area" means land in Humphreys, Issaquena,
18 Sharkey, Warren, Washington and Yazoo Counties located at or below
19 the one hundred-year frequency flood elevation.

20 (c) "Reforestation easement" means an easement on open
21 agricultural land located in the project area that restricts the
22 future use of the property to woodlands that is purchased from a
23 landowner by the Corps of Engineers or other governmental entity
24 for purposes specifically related to the project.

25 (2) The board of supervisors of any county in the project
26 area may, in its discretion, require all landowners in the county
27 who sell reforestation easements in the project area for purposes
28 specifically related to the project to annually pay a fee in an
29 amount not to exceed Four Dollars (\$4.00) per acre, on each acre
30 of property for which a landowner sold such an easement. The

31 proceeds of the fee shall be used by the board of supervisors to
32 provide services such as road maintenance, fire protection and
33 police protection, and other services necessary for the
34 maintenance and protection of reforestation easements in the
35 project area. If the federal government provides funds to
36 counties in the project area which may be used by the counties to
37 provide such services necessary for the maintenance and protection
38 of reforestation easements in the project area, the board of
39 supervisors of a county receiving such federal funds shall reduce
40 any fee imposed under this section by a proportionate amount based
41 on the ratio that the amount of federal funds received by the
42 county bears to the cost of providing such services.

43 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
44 and after its passage.