

By: Senator(s) Little, Harvey, Stogner,  
Williamson, Dearing

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 574

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO CREATE A STUDY TASK FORCE TO  
2 DEVELOP A STRATEGIC INITIATIVE FOR FOREST-BASED ECONOMIC  
3 DEVELOPMENT; TO DIRECT THE TASK FORCE TO MAKE A WRITTEN REPORT OF  
4 ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2001; AND FOR  
5 RELATED PURPOSES.

6 WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi has significant and  
7 abundant forest lands; and

8 WHEREAS, forests are a vital part of the state's economy,  
9 character and heritage; and

10 WHEREAS, forests define our state's natural environment by  
11 supporting animal and plant life, and by contributing to the  
12 quality of the water and soil of the state; and

13 WHEREAS, the forests of the state provide our citizens with  
14 recreational, cultural and aesthetic pleasures; and

15 WHEREAS, the forest industry has long employed countless  
16 citizens, supported many of the state's communities, and  
17 contributes to the state's economy and trade; and

18 WHEREAS, there is a need for a comprehensive, coordinated  
19 strategic plan to maximize the potential of our state's forest  
20 resources; and

21 WHEREAS, the Forestry and Wildlife Research Center at  
22 Mississippi State University, the Mississippi Development  
23 Authority, the Mississippi Forestry Commission and others have  
24 individually studied and made recommendations on various  
25 initiatives to improve the use of our state forests:

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
27 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
28 a joint special study task force is created to study and make

29 recommendations regarding a comprehensive and strategic economic  
30 development forestry initiative. The committee shall be composed  
31 of two members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by  
32 the Speaker of the House and two members of the Senate to be  
33 appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, the Commissioner of  
34 Agriculture and Commerce, the State Forester of the Mississippi  
35 Forestry Commission, the Executive Vice President of the  
36 Mississippi Forestry Association, the Executive Director of the  
37 Mississippi Development Authority, the Director of the Forestry  
38 and Wildlife Center at Mississippi State University, the Executive  
39 Director of the Polymer Science Center at the University of  
40 Southern Mississippi, the Chairman of the Delta Council's wildlife  
41 committee, and the following to be appointed by the Lieutenant  
42 Governor: a representative of the nonindustrial, private forest  
43 landowners, a representative of the logging industry, a  
44 representative of primary (wood) manufacturing, a representative  
45 of the pulp and paper manufacturing industry and a representative  
46 of the Nature Conservancy. The task force shall be co-chaired by  
47 the Director of the Forestry and Wildlife Research Center and a  
48 co-chairman selected by the Lieutenant Governor.

49       Within ten days after the last day of the 2001 Regular  
50 Session of the Legislature, the Speaker and the Lieutenant  
51 Governor shall appoint the members of the task force. Within ten  
52 days after the members are appointed, the membership shall meet on  
53 a date mutually agreed upon by the co-chairmen for the purpose of  
54 organizing the task force and establishing rules for transacting  
55 its business and keeping records. A majority of the members of  
56 the task force shall constitute a quorum at all task force  
57 meetings. An affirmative vote of a majority of the members voting  
58 shall be required in the adoption of rules, resolutions and  
59 reports, and in any other actions taken by the task force. All  
60 members of the task force shall be notified in writing of all  
61 regular and special meetings of the task force, which notices

62 shall be mailed at least five days before the dates of the  
63 meetings. The task force shall hold a minimum of three regular  
64 meetings.

65 The task force shall make a written report of its findings  
66 and recommendations, and shall mail copies of the report to each  
67 member and member-elect of the Legislature not later than December  
68 1, 2001.

69 For attending meetings of the task force, each legislative  
70 member shall be paid, from the Contingent Expense Fund of the  
71 member's respective house, per diem compensation in the amount  
72 authorized by Section 25-3-69, Mississippi Code of 1972, and a  
73 mileage allowance and an expense allowance in the amount  
74 authorized by Section 5-1-47, Mississippi Code of 1972. However,  
75 no per diem compensation, mileage allowance or expense allowance  
76 shall be paid for attending meetings of the task force while the  
77 Legislature is in session, and no per diem compensation, mileage  
78 allowance or expense allowance shall be paid without prior  
79 approval of the proper committee in the member's respective house.

80 All expenses incurred by and on behalf of the task force  
81 shall be paid from funds made available by the House Management  
82 Committee and the Senate Management Committee from the Contingent  
83 Expense Fund of each respective house, from any funds appropriated  
84 for the purpose of this resolution and from any grants or  
85 contributions made to the committee for its purpose.

86 In carrying out the provisions of this resolution, the task  
87 force may utilize the services, facilities and personnel of all  
88 departments, agencies, offices and institutions of the state. The  
89 staff of the Special Task Force for Economic Development Planning  
90 will serve as the coordinator for the work of the Task Force for  
91 the Strategic Initiative for Forest-Based Economic Development.