

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.