

**REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

**MR. SPEAKER AND MADAM PRESIDENT:**

We, the undersigned conferees, have had under consideration the amendments to the following entitled BILL:

H. B. No. 1617: Appropriation; State Forestry Commission.

We, therefore, respectfully submit the following report and recommendation:

1. That the Senate recede from its Amendment No. 1.
  
2. That the House and Senate adopt the following amendment:

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

5           SECTION 1. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
6 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State  
7 General Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the support and  
8 maintenance of the State Forestry Commission for the fiscal year  
9 beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2002.....  
10 ..... \$       19,212,384.00.

11           SECTION 2. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
12 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the special  
13 fund in the State Treasury to the credit of the State Forestry

14 Commission which is comprised of special source funds collected  
15 by or otherwise available to the commission, for the support and  
16 maintenance of the commission for the fiscal year beginning  
17 July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2002.....  
18 ..... \$ 11,662,536.00.

19 Of the funds specified in this section, Two Hundred Fifty  
20 Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) shall be deposited in a fund  
21 created in the State Treasury called the "Forest Improvement  
22 Revolving Fund." Money in this fund shall be used by the State  
23 Forestry Commission to assist in the reforestation and growth  
24 improvement of the forests, woodlands, and publicly owned lands  
25 of the state, including sixteenth section lands, Camp Shelby,  
26 Columbia Training School and colleges and universities.  
27 Landowners who contract with the commission for such work shall  
28 pay to the commission its actual cost for conducting such work.  
29 Money received for this work by the commission shall be paid into  
30 the State Treasury, and the State Treasurer shall deposit such  
31 money in the "Forest Improvement Revolving Fund."

32 SECTION 3. Of the funds appropriated under the provisions  
33 of Sections 1 and 2, not more than the amounts set forth below  
34 shall be expended for the respective major objects or purposes of  
35 expenditure:

36 MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE:

37 Personal Services:

38	Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits . \$	21,623,544.00
39	Travel and Subsistence .....	60,000.00
40	Contractual Services .....	2,242,495.00
41	Commodities .....	2,248,881.00
42	Capital Outlay:	
43	Other Than Equipment .....	0.00
44	Equipment .....	1,200,000.00
45	Subsidies, Loans and Grants .....	<u>3,500,000.00</u>
46	Total .....	\$ 30,874,920.00

47 FUNDING:

48	General Funds .....	\$ 19,212,384.00
49	Special Funds .....	<u>11,662,536.00</u>
50	Total .....	\$ 30,874,920.00

51 AUTHORIZED POSITIONS:

52	Permanent:	Full Time	653
53		Part Time	58
54	Time-Limited:	Full Time	0

55

5

Part Time 0

6 With the funds herein appropriated, it is the intention of the Legislature  
7 that it shall be the agency's responsibility to make certain that funds  
8 required to be appropriated for "Personal Services" for Fiscal Year 2003 do  
9 not exceed Fiscal Year 2002 funds appropriated for that purpose, unless  
10 programs or positions are added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2003 budget  
11 by the Mississippi Legislature. Based on data provided by the Legislative  
12 Budget Office, the State Personnel Board shall determine and publish the  
13 projected annual cost to fully fund all appropriated positions in compliance  
14 with the provisions of this act. It shall be the responsibility of the agency  
15 head to insure that no single personnel action increases this projected  
16 annual cost and/or the Fiscal Year 2002 appropriation for "Personal  
17 Services" when annualized. If, at the end of any calendar month, the State  
18 Personnel Board determines that the agency has taken action(s) which  
19 would cause the agency to exceed this projected annual cost or the Fiscal  
20 Year 2002 "Personal Services" appropriated level, when annualized, then  
21 only those actions which reduce the projected annual cost and/or the  
22 appropriation requirement will be processed by the State Personnel Board  
23 until such time as the requirements of this provision are met.

24 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with the  
25 terms, conditions and procedures established by law.

26 No general funds authorized to be expended herein shall be used to  
27 replace federal funds and/or other special funds which are being used for  
28 salaries authorized under the provisions of this act and which are withdrawn  
29 and no longer available.

30 SECTION 4. It is the intention of the Legislature that the State

31 Forestry Commission be allowed to escalate its budget in the Capital Outlay:  
 32 Equipment major object of expenditure, with funds generated from the  
 33 Forest Acreage Tax, and with funds generated from the sale of old  
 34 equipment and lease of tower sites an amount not to exceed Seven  
 35 Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000.00). It is further the intention of  
 36 the Legislature that the State Forestry Commission be allowed to escalate  
 37 its budget in the Subsidies, Loans and Grants major object of expenditure,  
 38 with funds generated from the Severance Tax to fund the Forest Resource  
 39 Development Program in an amount not to exceed Five Hundred Thousand  
 40 Dollars (\$500,000.00). The receipt of these funds is hereby authorized and  
 41 approved, provided such receipts and expenditures are reported and  
 42 otherwise accounted for in accordance with Section 27-103-101 et seq. and  
 43 Section 27-104-1 et seq., Mississippi Code of 1972.

44 SECTION 5. In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance Budget  
 45 and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of the Legislature that  
 46 the funds provided herein shall be utilized in the most efficient and effective  
 47 manner possible to achieve the intended mission of this agency. Based on  
 48 the funding authorized, this agency shall make every effort to attain the  
 49 targeted performance measures provided below:

	FY02
<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
52 Fire Control	
53       Number of Fires per Year (Events)	4,585
54       Average Size of Fire (Acres)	11.95
55 Private Lands Management	
56       Land Reforested (Acres)	175,000
57       Landowners Assisted (Persons)	25,000

58	Public Lands Management	
59	Value of Timber Sold (Dollars)	15,000,000
60	Insect & Disease Control	
61	Acres Surveyed (Millions)	18,600,000
62	Forest Resource Development	
63	Acres Regenerated (Acres)	75,000
64	Federal Excess Property	
65	Number of Vehicles Acquired (Vehicles)	95
66	Regeneration	
67	Genetically Improved Seedlings (In Millions)	50,000,000

68       A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets set above  
69 have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the agency's budget  
70 request submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee for Fiscal Year  
71 2003.

72       SECTION 6. It is the intention of the Legislature that the State  
73 Forestry Commission be allowed to escalate part-time positions up to one  
74 hundred (100) and expend funds not to exceed Five Hundred Thousand  
75 Dollars (\$500,000.00) from any source of funds that become available to the  
76 commission. This escalation shall be in accordance with rules and  
77 regulations of the Department of Finance and Administration in a manner  
78 consistent with the escalation of federal funds. These positions may be  
79 used to protect life and property during extended periods of extreme wildfire  
80 occurrences of a minimum of fifty (50) fires per day. The escalation of  
81 positions and the expenditure of these funds shall be at the discretion of the  
82 State Forester, with written notification to the State Personnel Board and the  
83 State Fiscal Officer.

84       SECTION 7. The Forestry Commission has the authority to purchase

85 from the "General Services Administration" Fire Fighter Catalog.

86 SECTION 8. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a fund  
87 designated as the Volunteer Fire Department Equipment Conversion  
88 Revolving Fund to be used by the State Forestry Commission to assist in  
89 the conversion of vehicles acquired by the State Forestry Commission  
90 through the Federal Excess Personal Property Program or by Volunteer Fire  
91 Departments through other means to adapt them for use in the suppression  
92 of wildland fires. This assistance shall be in the form of fabrication of water  
93 tanks or other accessories necessary for the operation of fire suppression  
94 units, installation of piping and valves, painting or other similar or associated  
95 component work necessary to place fire suppression equipment into  
96 service. It is not for general vehicle maintenance or repair.

97 The Volunteer Fire Department Equipment Conversion Revolving  
98 Fund shall be funded by monies received from charges for work and  
99 services performed for Volunteer Fire Departments by the State Forestry  
100 Commission. Monies collected from such charges shall be deposited into  
101 the Volunteer Fire Department Equipment Conversion Revolving Fund. The  
102 State Treasurer shall make disbursements therefrom for payment of  
103 materials, supplies and labor upon requisition of the Forestry Commission  
104 and upon the issuance of warrants therefor by the Department of Finance  
105 and Administration.

106 The amount of monies deposited into the Volunteer Fire Department  
107 Equipment Conversion Fund through this work shall not exceed Fifty  
108 Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00). Funds in excess of Fifty Thousand Dollars  
109 (\$50,000.00) shall be placed in the State Forestry Commission's regular  
110 appropriated special funds. Monies in this revolving fund are to be  
111 considered special funds and shall be carried forward from one fiscal year to

112 the next.

113           SECTION 9. The money herein appropriated shall be paid by the  
114 State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit of the  
115 proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon warrants issued by the  
116 State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal Officer shall issue his warrants  
117 upon requisitions signed by the



118 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

119 SECTION 10. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after

120 July 1, 2001.

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

X \_\_\_\_\_

X \_\_\_\_\_

—

Charlie Capps, Jr.

Jack Gordon

X \_\_\_\_\_

X \_\_\_\_\_

—

Clayton P. Henderson

E. Glenn Hamilton

X \_\_\_\_\_

X \_\_\_\_\_

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Percy L. Maples

Sampson Jackson II

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