

By: Senator(s) Little, Harvey, Gordon,
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To: Forestry

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 2922

1 AN ACT TO ENACT THE MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
2 AND STRATEGIC PLANNING ACT OF 2002; TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI
3 INSTITUTE FOR FOREST INVENTORY; TO SPECIFY ITS POWERS AND DUTIES;
4 TO ESTABLISH A BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE INSTITUTE; TO CREATE A
5 FORESTRY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WITHIN THE MISSISSIPPI
6 DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY; TO SPECIFY THE POWERS AND DUTIES; TO
7 REQUIRE THE COORDINATION OF EFFORT TO CREATE A FOREST INVENTORY BY
8 JULY 1, 2004; TO CREATE A FOREST RESOURCES PARTNERSHIP TO AID THE
9 MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY; TO PROVIDE FOR MEMBERSHIP OF
10 THE FOREST RESOURCES PARTNERSHIP; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

12 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known as the "Mississippi
13 Forestry Economic Development and Strategic Planning Act of 2002."

14 **SECTION 2.** (1) There is hereby created the Mississippi
15 Institute for Forest Inventory. The institute shall be governed
16 by a board of directors. The board shall consist of eleven (11)
17 members. The Director of the Mississippi Automated Resource
18 Information System; the Executive Director of the Mississippi
19 Development Authority, or his designee; the Director of the Forest
20 and Wildlife Research Center at Mississippi State University, or
21 his designee; and the State Forester, or his designee; shall be ex
22 officio members with full voting power. The Governor shall
23 appoint seven (7) members with the advice and consent of the
24 Senate. From these seven (7) members, one (1) member shall be
25 appointed from each congressional district and the initial terms
26 shall be one (1), two (2), three (3) and four (4) years,
27 respectively. The remainder shall be appointed from the state at
28 large, with two (2) members serving an initial term of five (5)
29 years and one (1) member serving a term of six (6) years. After
30 the expiration of the initial terms, the terms shall be six (6)
31 years.



32 The Governor shall appoint at least one (1) member from each
33 of the following categories: a private nonindustrial forest
34 landowner, a Mississippi registered forester, a representative of
35 the timber harvesting industry, a representative of the forest
36 products industry, a certified wildlife or fisheries biologist,
37 and a representative of an environmental organization.

38 The Chairman of the Senate Forestry Committee and the
39 Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee shall serve as members
40 of the Joint Institute for Forest Inventory Oversight Committee.
41 For attending meetings, the legislators shall receive per diem and
42 expenses from their respective contingent expense funds at the
43 rate authorized for committee meetings when the Legislature is not
44 in session. No per diem and expenses will be paid for attending
45 meetings when the Legislature is in session.

46 (2) The board shall appoint a director of the institute who
47 serves at the will and pleasure of the board. Members of the
48 board may be reimbursed for mileage and actual and necessary
49 expenses as provided under Section 25-3-41.

50 (3) The board shall have the following powers:

51 (a) To apply for and accept any grants or gifts in
52 furtherance of the institute's duties;

53 (b) Expend or distribute any federal, state or local
54 funds and contributions, gifts or funds from any private or public
55 source;

56 (c) Enter into contracts and execute all instruments to
57 carry out the duties of the institute;

58 (d) To do all acts necessary to carry out the duties of
59 the institute.

60 **SECTION 3.** (1) The duties and responsibilities of the
61 Mississippi Institute for Forest Inventory shall include, but are
62 not limited to, the following:

63 (a) To facilitate the development and implementation of
64 a statewide forest resource inventory necessary for a sustainable



65 forest-based economy on or before July 1, 2004, and thereafter on
66 a continuing basis with updated published data;

67 (b) Analyze and publish a detailed report of
68 Mississippi's forest resource inventory by January 1, 2005;

69 (c) Conduct and publish data for subsequent and
70 supporting inventories of forest resources in the years following
71 the initial full inventory;

72 (d) Develop policies to aid in the implementation of
73 the inventory information and reports;

74 (e) Submit an annual report to the Legislature on the
75 institute's funding, expenditures, accomplishments and
76 recommendations.

77 (2) In accomplishing its duties and formulating the
78 recommendations required of it, the institute may elicit the
79 support of and participation by any commercial, industrial,
80 governmental, environmental, minority and public interest
81 organizations or associations, or individual members thereof, and
82 any federal, state and local agencies and political subdivisions
83 as may be necessary or appropriate in the furtherance of the
84 activities of the institute.

85 **SECTION 4.** (1) In recognition of the development of forest
86 related industries as a major component in the Mississippi
87 Development Authority's economic development plan, there is hereby
88 created within the Mississippi Development Authority a forest
89 resources economic development program with a dedicated position
90 for the program.

91 (2) The program shall perform the following duties:

92 (a) Develop a database of manufacturing capacity and
93 output in primary and secondary forest-related industries and
94 update it periodically as necessary.

95 (b) Assess the potential of financial incentives and
96 other factors to impact forestry-related economic development as
97 related to new and existing forest industry.



98 (c) Analyze and publish data on volume, quality, size
99 and ownership of forest resources to provide support for new and
100 existing forest industry.

101 (d) Maintain a constant assessment of potential impacts
102 of national and international markets for all forest-based
103 industry, including, but not limited to, forest certification.

104 (e) Assess intermodal transportation capabilities to
105 assure adequate port and other facilities for export of forest
106 products.

107 (f) Develop a coordinated system for disseminating
108 forest-based economic information to present and potential forest
109 industry, other agencies and entities, and private landowners with
110 potential influence on the economic impact of forestry in
111 Mississippi.

112 (g) Support the Mississippi Forestry Commission, the
113 Mississippi Institute for Forest Inventory, and the Forest and
114 Wildlife Research Center at Mississippi State University and other
115 related agencies in the collection, analysis and dissemination of
116 information on forest resources as related to economic
117 development.

118 (h) Monitor international conditions in the global
119 forest economy, assess the implication of these conditions for the
120 economy of Mississippi, and distribute this information on a
121 timely basis with suggestions for mitigating responses.

122 **SECTION 5.** (1) To assist the Mississippi Development
123 Authority with the forest resources economic development program,
124 the executive director is authorized and directed to create the
125 Mississippi Forest Resources Partnership. The executive director
126 shall appoint members from the following: Mississippi Development
127 Authority representative, Mississippi State University College of
128 Forest Resources Dean, forest industry representative, consulting
129 forester, conservation community representative, timber harvesting
130 industry representative, Mississippi State University Forestry and



131 Wildlife and Fisheries Extension representative, Mississippi
132 Department of Agriculture and Commerce representative, county
133 forestry association representative (forest landowner),
134 Mississippi Technology Alliance director, Mississippi Forestry
135 Commission representative, Mississippi Forestry Association
136 representative, Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation representative,
137 hardwood forest resources representative and a representative from
138 any other sector the executive director deems desirable. The
139 members of the partnership shall elect a chairman, vice chairman
140 and secretary.

141 (2) The partnership shall:

142 (a) Advise the Mississippi Development Authority on
143 economic development issues and strategically plan for improvement
144 in the management and use of the state's forest resources and
145 forest-related industry.

146 (b) Advise the Legislature on needed legislation and
147 evaluate proposed legislation that impacts or enhances forest
148 resource-based economic development.

149 (3) The Mississippi Forest Resources Partnership shall meet
150 at least quarterly to review research, extension, and other
151 state-supported programs and other forestry data and information
152 and to plan for the dissemination and transfer of information that
153 is applicable to forest resources.

154 (4) The Mississippi Development Authority may provide
155 technical, clerical and other support services as the partnership
156 may require in the performance of its duties.

157 **SECTION 6.** The Executive Directors of the Mississippi
158 Institute for Forest Inventory, the Mississippi Forestry Resources
159 Partnership, the Mississippi Forestry Commission, the Mississippi
160 Development Authority, the MSU Forest and Wildlife Research
161 Center, and the Cooperative Extension Service shall establish a
162 procedure and guidelines for the coordination of outreach and
163 education programs. It shall be the duty of each agency to



164 cooperate and to promote a coordinated outreach and education
165 program to increase the utilization of private nonindustrial
166 forest landowner forest resources and increase profitability for
167 such resources.

168 **SECTION 7.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
169 and after July 1, 2002.

