

By: Senator(s) Little, Harvey, Gordon,
Jordan, Hamilton, Burton, King, Chaney,
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To: Forestry

SENATE BILL NO. 2922
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO ENACT THE MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY INVENTORY AND
2 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 PROVIDE
5 FOR THE REPEAL OF THIS ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known as the "Mississippi
8 Forestry Inventory and Strategic Planning Act of 2002."

9 **SECTION 2.** (1) (a) There is hereby created the Mississippi
10 Institute for Forest Inventory. The institute shall be governed
11 by a board of directors. The board shall consist of eleven (11)
12 members. The Director of the Mississippi Automated Resource
13 Information System; the Executive Director of the Mississippi
14 Development Authority, or his designee; the Director of the Forest
15 and Wildlife Research Center at Mississippi State University, or
16 his designee; and the State Forester, or his designee; shall be ex
17 officio members with full voting power. The Governor shall
18 appoint four (4) members with the advice and consent of the
19 Senate. The members shall be appointed from the state at large.

20 The Governor shall appoint one (1) member from each of the
21 following categories: a private nonindustrial forest landowner, a
22 Mississippi registered forester, a certified wildlife or fisheries
23 biologist, and a representative of an environmental organization.

24 (b) The Lieutenant Governor shall appoint three (3)
25 members from the state at large with the advice and consent of the
26 Senate. The Lieutenant Governor shall appoint one (1) member from
27 each of the following categories: the timber harvesting industry,



28 the forest products industry, and a citizen with forestry related
29 interests.

30 (c) Members of the board may be reimbursed for mileage
31 and actual and necessary expenses as provided under Section
32 25-3-41.

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

41 (2) The board shall appoint a director of the institute who
42 serves at the will and pleasure of the board.

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

44 (a) To apply for, accept and expend any funds, grants
45 or gifts from any public or private sources in furtherance of the
46 institute's duties;

47 (b) To expend funds by appropriation or directly from
48 any federal, local or private sources;

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

51 (d) To authorize the executive director with the
52 approval of the board to execute all contracts and agreements and
53 to employ such personnel as may be required to carry out the
54 duties of the institute; and

55 (e) To do all acts necessary to carry out the duties of
56 the institute.

57 (4) All funds received by the institute shall be deposited
58 in the State Treasury for the use of the institute.



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

62 (a) To facilitate the development and implementation of
63 a statewide forest resource inventory necessary for a sustainable
64 forest-based economy on or before July 1, 2004, and thereafter on
65 a continuing basis with updated published data;

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

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

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

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

76 (f) Analyze and publish data on the volume, quality,
77 size and ownership of forest resources to provide support for new
78 and existing forest industries.

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

87 (b) The institute may utilize the services, facilities
88 and personnel of all departments, agencies, offices and
89 institutions of the state and all such entities are authorized to
90 assist the institute and to provide such support.



91 **SECTION 4.** The Executive Directors of the Mississippi
92 Institute for Forest Inventory, the Mississippi Forestry
93 Commission, the Mississippi Development Authority, the MSU Forest
94 and Wildlife Research Center, and the Cooperative Extension
95 Service shall establish a procedure and guidelines for the
96 coordination of outreach and education programs. It shall be the
97 duty of each agency to cooperate and to promote a coordinated
98 outreach and education program to increase the utilization of
99 private nonindustrial forest landowner forest resources and
100 increase profitability for such resources.

101 **SECTION 5.** This act shall stand repealed on July 1, 2007.

102 **SECTION 6.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
103 and after July 1, 2002.

