

*****Adopted***
AMENDMENT No. 1 PROPOSED TO**

Senate Bill NO. 2922

By Representative(s) Committee

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

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

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

34 years and one (1) member serving a term of six (6) years. After
35 the expiration of the initial terms, the terms shall be six (6)
36 years.

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

43 The Chairman of the Senate Forestry Committee and a member
44 appointed by the Lieutenant Governor and the Chairman of the House
45 Agriculture Committee and a member appointed by the Speaker of the
46 House of Representatives shall serve as members of the Joint
47 Institute for Forest Inventory Oversight Committee. For attending
48 meetings, the legislators shall receive per diem and expenses from
49 their respective contingent expense funds at the rate authorized
50 for committee meetings when the Legislature is not in session. No
51 per diem and expenses will be paid for attending meetings when the
52 Legislature is in session.

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

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

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

60 (b) Expend or distribute any federal, state or local
61 funds and contributions, gifts or funds from any private or public
62 source;

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

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

67 **SECTION 3.** (1) The duties and responsibilities of the
68 Mississippi Institute for Forest Inventory shall include, but are

69 not limited to, the following:

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

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

76 (c) Conduct and publish data for subsequent and
77 supporting inventories of forest resources in the years following
78 the initial full inventory;

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

81 (e) Submit an annual report to the Legislature on the
82 institute's funding, expenditures, accomplishments and
83 recommendations;

84 (f) Develop a database of manufacturing capacity and
85 output in primary and secondary forest-related industries and
86 update it periodically as necessary; and

87 (g) Analyze and publish data on volume, quality, size
88 and ownership of forest resources to provide support for new and
89 existing forest industry.

90 (2) In accomplishing its duties and formulating the
91 recommendations required of it, the institute may elicit the
92 support of and participation by any commercial, industrial,
93 governmental, environmental, minority and public interest
94 organizations or associations, or individual members thereof, and
95 any federal, state and local agencies and political subdivisions
96 as may be necessary or appropriate in the furtherance of the
97 activities of the institute.

98 **SECTION 4.** (1) In recognition of the development of forest
99 related industries as a major component in the economic
100 development plan of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce,
101 there is hereby created within the Department of Agriculture and
102 Commerce a forest resources economic development program with a
103 dedicated position for the program.

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

105 (a) Assess the potential of financial incentives and
106 other factors to impact forestry-related economic development as
107 related to new and existing forest industry.

108 (b) Maintain a constant assessment of potential impacts
109 of national and international markets for all forest-based
110 industry, including, but not limited to, forest certification.

111 (c) Assess intermodal transportation capabilities to
112 assure adequate port and other facilities for export of forest
113 products.

114 (d) Develop a coordinated system for disseminating
115 forest-based economic information to present and potential forest
116 industry, other agencies and entities, and private landowners with
117 potential influence on the economic impact of forestry in
118 Mississippi.

119 (e) Support the Mississippi Forestry Commission, the
120 Mississippi Institute for Forest Inventory, and the Forest and
121 Wildlife Research Center at Mississippi State University and other
122 related agencies in the collection, analysis and dissemination of
123 information on forest resources as related to economic
124 development.

125 (f) Monitor international conditions in the global
126 forest economy, assess the implication of these conditions for the
127 economy of Mississippi, and distribute this information on a
128 timely basis with suggestions for mitigating responses.

129 **SECTION 5.** (1) To assist the Department of Agriculture and
130 Commerce with the forest resources economic development program,
131 the Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce is authorized and
132 directed to create the Mississippi Forest Resources Partnership.
133 The commissioner shall appoint members from the following:
134 Mississippi Development Authority representative, Mississippi
135 State University College of Forest Resources Dean, forest industry
136 representative, consulting forester, conservation community
137 representative, timber harvesting industry representative,
138 Mississippi State University Forestry and Wildlife and Fisheries

139 Extension representative, Mississippi Department of Agriculture
140 and Commerce representative, county forestry association
141 representative (forest landowner), Mississippi Technology Alliance
142 director, Mississippi Forestry Commission representative,
143 Mississippi Forestry Association representative, Mississippi Farm
144 Bureau Federation representative, hardwood forest resources
145 representative and a representative from any other sector the
146 commissioner deems desirable. The members of the partnership
147 shall elect a chairman, vice chairman and secretary.

148 (2) The partnership shall:

149 (a) Advise the institute and the Department of
150 Agriculture and Commerce on economic development issues and
151 strategically plan for improvement in the management and use of
152 the state's forest resources and forest-related industry.

153 (b) Advise the Legislature on needed legislation and
154 evaluate proposed legislation that impacts or enhances forest
155 resource-based economic development.

156 (3) The Mississippi Forest Resources Partnership shall meet
157 at least quarterly to review research, extension, and other
158 state-supported programs and other forestry data and information
159 and to plan for the dissemination and transfer of information that
160 is applicable to forest resources.

161 (4) The Department of Agriculture and Commerce may provide
162 technical, clerical and other support services as the partnership
163 may require in the performance of its duties.

164 **SECTION 6.** The Executive Director of the Mississippi
165 Institute for Forest Inventory, the Chairman of the Mississippi
166 Forest Resources Partnership, the State Forester, Mississippi
167 Forestry Commission, the Commissioner of the Department of
168 Agriculture and Commerce, the Director of the Mississippi State
169 University Forest and Wildlife Research Center, and the Director
170 of the Cooperative Extension Service shall establish a procedure
171 and guidelines for the coordination of outreach and education
172 programs. It shall be the duty of each agency to cooperate and to
173 promote a coordinated outreach and education program to increase

174 the utilization of private nonindustrial forest landowner forest
175 resources and increase profitability for such resources.

176 **SECTION 7.** (1) Subsection (2) of this section shall be
177 codified as a separate section.

178 (2) Sections 1 through 6 of this act shall stand repealed on
179 July 1, 2005.

180 **SECTION 8.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
181 and after July 1, 2002.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

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 PROVIDE THAT THE INSTITUTE
4 SHALL OPERATE AS A SEPARATE DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY
5 COMMISSION; TO SPECIFY ITS POWERS AND DUTIES; TO ESTABLISH A BOARD
6 OF DIRECTORS FOR THE INSTITUTE; TO CREATE A FORESTRY ECONOMIC
7 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND
8 COMMERCE; TO SPECIFY THE POWERS AND DUTIES; TO REQUIRE THE
9 COORDINATION OF EFFORT TO CREATE A FOREST INVENTORY BY JULY 1,
10 2004; TO CREATE A FOREST RESOURCES PARTNERSHIP TO AID THE
11 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE; TO PROVIDE FOR MEMBERSHIP
12 OF THE FOREST RESOURCES PARTNERSHIP; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.