

By: Representative Franks

To: Conservation and Water Resources; Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1365

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE TASK FORCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SPENDING; TO  
2 PROVIDE FOR APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERSHIP; TO DESCRIBE THE PURPOSE  
3 OF THE TASK FORCE; TO PROVIDE HOW MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE MAY BE  
4 PAID; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created the Task Force on  
7 Environmental Spending, which will be responsible for studying  
8 state fund appropriations to the Mississippi Department of  
9 Environmental Quality for programs under the regulation of the  
10 Department of Environmental Quality and the Commission on  
11 Environmental Quality. The task force will serve as a consensus  
12 group designed to study efforts by the state to reduce state  
13 funding of programs that the federal government can regulate  
14 effectively.

15 (2) The task force will consist of ten (10) members.  
16 Membership of the task force will include one (1) representative  
17 from each of the following agencies or entities, as designated by  
18 each respective agency or entity:

- 19 (a) State Department of Environmental Quality;
- 20 (b) Commission on Environmental Quality.

21 (3) In addition to the members designated in subsection (2)  
22 of this section, membership of the task force will consist of the  
23 following persons:

- 24 (a) Two (2) members of the Conservation and Water  
25 Resources Committee, of the Mississippi House of Representatives,  
26 appointed by the Speaker of the House;

27           (b) Two (2) members of the Environmental Protection,  
28 Conservation and Water Resources Committee of the Mississippi  
29 State Senate, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;

30           (c) Two (2) members of the Appropriations Committee of  
31 the Mississippi House of Representatives, appointed by the  
32 Speaker; and

33           (d) Two (2) members of the Appropriations Committee of  
34 the Mississippi State Senate, appointed by the Lieutenant  
35 Governor.

36           (4) At its first meeting, the task force shall elect a  
37 chairman and other necessary officers from among its membership.  
38 The chairman and other officers shall be elected annually by the  
39 task force. The task force shall adopt bylaws and rules for its  
40 efficient operation. The task force may establish committees that  
41 will be responsible for conducting specific task force programs or  
42 activities.

43           (5) The task force shall meet and conduct business at least  
44 quarterly. All meetings of the task force and any committees of  
45 the task force will be open to the public, with opportunities for  
46 public comment provided on a regular basis. Notice of all  
47 meetings shall be given as provided in the Open Meetings Act in  
48 Section 25-41-1 et seq., and appropriate notice also shall be  
49 given to all persons requesting the date, time and place of each  
50 meeting. Six (6) members of the task force will constitute a  
51 quorum for the transaction of business.

52           (6) The task force is assigned to the State Legislature for  
53 administrative purposes only, and the State Legislature shall  
54 designate staff to assist the task force.

55           (7) Members of the task force who are not legislators, may  
56 be compensated at the per diem rate authorized by Section 25-3-69  
57 and may be reimbursed in accordance with Section 25-3-41 for  
58 mileage and actual expenses incurred in the performance of their  
59 duties. Legislative members of the task force will be paid from

60 the contingent expense funds of their respective houses in the  
61 same manner as provided for committee meetings when the  
62 Legislature is not in session. However, legislative members will  
63 not be paid per diem or expenses for attending meetings of the  
64 task force while the Legislature is in session. No task force  
65 member may incur per diem, travel or other expenses unless  
66 previously authorized by vote at a meeting of the task force that  
67 must be recorded in the official minutes of the meeting.

68       **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
69 and after July 1, 2004.