

By: Senator(s) Harvey

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 619

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CREATING A PRIVATE/PUBLIC FOREST
2 PRODUCTS AND FURNITURE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL TO ADVISE STATE LEADERS
3 ON ISSUES FACING THE INDUSTRY CLUSTER AND TO PROVIDE A FORUM FOR
4 COLLABORATIVE ACTION TO ADDRESS ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND
5 OPPORTUNITIES.

6 WHEREAS, the forest products and furniture economic cluster
7 is an integral and valuable sector of Mississippi's economy; and

8 WHEREAS, this economic cluster is a major employer in
9 Mississippi; and

10 WHEREAS, the needs of the businesses in this economic sector
11 are often overlooked in terms of value-added innovations,
12 technical assistance and workforce skills training; and

13 WHEREAS, there is a need for a coordinated strategic plan to
14 maximize the potential and the economic contribution of the forest
15 products and furniture industries of this state; and

16 WHEREAS, a need exists for a joint private/public partnership
17 council to aid state leaders in addressing the challenges and
18 opportunities of this vital economic sector of our state economy;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, there is a need for the continuation of efforts to
21 strengthen the forest products and furniture economic sectors of
22 the state beginning with the joint public/private Pathways to
23 Forestry in 1982; the creation of the Land, Water & Timber
24 Resources Board in 2000; the Task Force for the Strategic
25 Initiative for Forest-Based Economic Development in 2001; and the
26 Forest Products & Furniture Cluster Study and related efforts in
27 2002-2003:

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
29 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
30 in recognition of the need for a joint private/public council to
31 advise state leaders in developing a coordinated plan to address
32 the challenges and opportunities for this vital economic sector of
33 our state's economy and to promote collaboration among the private
34 and public sectors to address issues, challenges and opportunities
35 facing the industry cluster, a forest products and furniture
36 development council is created.

37 The council may be composed of the executive directors,
38 presidents, or their designees, from the following organizations:
39 MS Forestry Association, MS Loggers Association, MS Lumber
40 Manufacturers Association, furniture producers, MS Wildlife
41 Federation, MS Institute for Forest Inventory, MS Technology
42 Alliance, MS Forestry Commission, MS Land, Water and Timber
43 Resources Board, MS Development Authority; MS universities and
44 community colleges and any other state agency or private
45 organization that the council deems desirable to enhance this
46 economic cluster.

47 To promote the industry development focus of the council, a
48 private sector representative shall be appointed by the council to
49 serve as chairman of the council. The Mississippi Technology
50 Alliance shall solicit membership on the council and shall convene
51 the council for a meeting for the purpose of organizing the
52 council and establishing rules for transacting its business as
53 soon as practicable after the passage of this resolution.

54 In accomplishing its duties, the council may elicit the
55 support of and participation by any commercial, industrial,
56 governmental, environmental and public interest organizations or
57 associations, or individual members thereof, and any federal,
58 state and local agencies and political entities as may be
59 necessary or appropriate in the furtherance of the duties of the
60 council.

61 All agencies, departments, offices and institutions of the
62 state, including the state universities and the community
63 colleges, shall cooperate with the council with such assistance as
64 requested by the council.