REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

MR. SPEAKER AND MADAM PRESIDENT:

We, the undersigned conferees, have had under consideration the amendments to the following entitled BILL:

H. B. No. 1736: Appropriation; State Forestry Commission.

We, therefore, respectfully submit the following report and recommendation:

- That the Senate recede from its Amendment No. 1.
- 2. That the House and Senate adopt the following amendment:

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

5	SECTION 1. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
6	necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State
7	General Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the support and
8	maintenance of the State Forestry Commission for the fiscal year
9	beginning July 1, 2004, and ending June 30, 2005
10	\$ 19,782,777.00.
11	SECTION 2. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
12	necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the special
13	fund in the State Treasury to the credit of the State Forestry
14	Commission which is comprised of special source funds collected by
15	or otherwise available to the commission, for the support and
16	maintenance of the commission for the fiscal year beginning
17	July 1, 2004, and ending June 30, 2005
18	\$ 8,691,299.00.
19	Of the funds specified in this section, Two Hundred Fifty
20	Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) shall be deposited in a fund
21	created in the State Treasury called the "Forest Improvement
22	Revolving Fund." Money in this fund shall be used by the State
23	Forestry Commission to assist in the reforestation and growth
24	improvement of the forests, woodlands, and publicly owned lands of
25	the state, including sixteenth section lands, Camp Shelby,
26	Columbia Training School and colleges and universities.
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27	Landowners who contract with the commission for such work shall
28	pay to the commission its actual cost for conducting such work.
29	Money received for this work by the commission shall be paid into
30	the State Treasury, and the State Treasurer shall deposit such
31	money in the "Forest Improvement Revolving Fund."
32	SECTION 3. Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
33	Section 1 and Section 2, not more than the amounts set forth below
34	shall be expended for the respective major objects or purposes of
35	expenditure:
36	MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE:
37	Personal Services:
38	Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits\$ 20,801,351.00
39	Travel and Subsistence
40	Contractual Services
41	Commodities
42	Capital Outlay:
43	Other Than Equipment 100,000.00
44	Equipment
45	Subsidies, Loans and Grants 2,505,206.00
46	Total\$ 28,474,076.00
47	FUNDING:
48	General Funds \$ 19,782,777.00
49	Special Funds 8,691,299.00
50	Total\$ 28,474,076.00
51	AUTHORIZED POSITIONS:
52	Permanent: Full Time 653
53	Part Time 58
54	Time-Limited: Full Time 0
55	Part Time 0
56	With the funds herein appropriated, it is the intention of
57	the Legislature that it shall be the agency's responsibility to
58	make certain that funds required to be appropriated for "Personal

59 Services" for Fiscal Year 2006 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2005 60 funds appropriated for that purpose, unless programs or positions are added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2006 budget by the 61 62 Mississippi Legislature. Based on data provided by the Legislative Budget Office, the State Personnel Board shall 63 determine and publish the projected annual cost to fully fund all 64 appropriated positions in compliance with the provisions of this 65 66 It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to insure 67 that no single personnel action increases this projected annual cost and/or the Fiscal Year 2005 appropriation for "Personal 68 69 Services" when annualized, with the exception of escalated funds. If, at the time the agency takes any action to change "Personal 70 71 Services, " the State Personnel Board determines that the agency 72 has taken an action which would cause the agency to exceed this projected annual cost or the Fiscal Year 2005 "Personal Services" 73 74 appropriated level, when annualized, then only those actions which reduce the projected annual cost and/or the appropriation 75 76 requirement will be processed by the State Personnel Board until 77 such time as the requirements of this provision are met. 78 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with 79 the terms, conditions and procedures established by law or 80 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State 81 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written 82 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. 83 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written 84 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the 85 appropriated level. 86

being used for salaries authorized under the provisions of this

No general funds authorized to be expended herein shall be

used to replace federal funds and/or other special funds which are

act and which are withdrawn and no longer available.

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91	SECTION 4. It is the intention of the Legislature that the
92	State Forestry Commission shall maintain complete accounting and
93	personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds
94	appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the
95	same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year
96	2004. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the
97	agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2006 shall be submitted to
98	the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of
99	detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided
100	during the Fiscal Year 2005 budget request process.
101	SECTION 5. In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance
102	Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of
103	the Legislature that the funds provided herein shall be utilized
104	in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the
105	intended mission of this agency. Based on the funding authorized,
106	this agency shall make every effort to attain the targeted
107	performance measures provided below:
108	FY2005
109	Performance Measures Target
110	Fire Control
111	Number of Fires per Year (Events) 1,500
112	Average Size of Fire (Acres) 12.00
113	Private Lands Management
114	Land Reforested (Acres) 120,000
115	Landowners Assisted (Persons) 18,000
116	Public Lands Management
117	Value of Timber Sold (Dollars) 20,000,000
118	Insect & Disease Control
119	Acres Surveyed (Millions) 17.40
120	Forest Resource Development
121	Acres Regenerated (Acres) 45,000
122	Federal Excess Property

123	Number of Vehicles Acquired (Vehicles)
124	Regeneration
125	Genetically Improved Seedlings (In Millions)
126	Urban and Community Forestry
127	Communities Assisted 20
128	Homeowners Assisted 15,00
129	Financial Assistance Provided (dollars) 450,000
130	A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets
131	set above have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the
132	agency's budget request submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget
133	Committee for Fiscal Year 2006.
134	SECTION 6. It is the intention of the Legislature that the
135	State Forestry Commission be allowed to escalate its budget in the
136	Capital Outlay: Equipment major object of expenditure, with funda
137	generated from the Forest Acreage Tax, and with funds generated
138	from the sale of old equipment and lease of tower sites an amount
139	not to exceed Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000.00).
140	It is further the intention of the Legislature that the State
141	Forestry Commission be allowed to escalate its budget in the
142	Subsidies, Loans and Grants major object of expenditure, with
143	funds generated from the Severance Tax to fund the Forest Resource
144	Development Program in an amount not to exceed Five Hundred
145	Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00). The receipt of these funds is
146	hereby authorized and approved, provided such receipts and
147	expenditures are reported and otherwise accounted for in
148	accordance with Section 27-103-101 et seq. and Section 27-104-1 e
149	seq., Mississippi Code of 1972.
150	SECTION 7. It is the intention of the Legislature that the
151	State Forestry Commission be allowed to escalate part-time
152	positions up to one hundred (100) and expend funds not to exceed
153	Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) from any source of
154	funds that become available to the commission. This escalation

155	shall be in accordance with rules and regulations of the
156	Department of Finance and Administration in a manner consistent
157	with the escalation of federal funds. These positions may be used
158	to protect life and property during extended periods of extreme
159	wildfire occurrences of a minimum of fifty (50) fires per day.
160	The escalation of positions and the expenditure of these funds
161	shall be at the discretion of the State Forester, with written
162	notification to the State Personnel Board and the State Fiscal
163	Officer.
164	SECTION 8. The Forestry Commission has the authority to
165	purchase from the "General Services Administration" Fire Fighter
166	Catalog and any other GSA Catalog as long as the cost of such
167	items are less than the quotes received.
168	SECTION 9. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a
169	fund designated as the Volunteer Fire Department Equipment
170	Conversion Revolving Fund to be used by the State Forestry
171	Commission to assist in the conversion of vehicles acquired by the
172	State Forestry Commission through the Federal Excess Personal
173	Property Program or by Volunteer Fire Departments through other
174	means to adapt them for use in the suppression of wildland fires.
175	This assistance shall be in the form of fabrication of water tanks
176	or other accessories necessary for the operation of fire
177	suppression units, installation of piping and valves, painting or
178	other similar or associated component work necessary to place fire
179	suppression equipment into service. It is not for general vehicle
180	maintenance or repair.
181	The Volunteer Fire Department Equipment Conversion Revolving
182	Fund shall be funded by monies received from charges for work and
183	services performed for Volunteer Fire Departments by the State
184	Forestry Commission. Monies collected from such charges shall be
185	deposited into the Volunteer Fire Department Equipment Conversion
186	Revolving Fund. The State Treasurer shall make disbursements

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187	therefrom for payment of materials, supplies and labor upon
188	requisition of the Forestry Commission and upon the issuance of
189	warrants therefor by the Department of Finance and Administration.
190	The amount of monies deposited into the Volunteer Fire
191	Department Equipment Conversion Fund through this work shall not
192	exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00). Funds in excess of
193	Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) shall be placed in the State
194	Forestry Commission's regular appropriated special funds. Monies
195	in this revolving fund are to be considered special funds and
196	shall be carried forward from one fiscal year to the next.
197	SECTION 10. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a
198	fund designated as the Camden State Forest Revolving Fund to be
199	used by the State Forestry Commission to direct forest management
200	activities on the Camden State Forest in Madison County,
201	Mississippi. The forest management activities will include but
202	not be limited to maintenance of property, timber sale activities
203	and regeneration work.
204	The Camden State Forest Revolving Fund shall be funded by
205	monies received from timber sales, leases, and any other source.
206	Monies collected from these income sources shall be deposited into
207	the Camden State Forest Revolving Fund. The State Treasurer shall
208	make disbursements therefrom for payments of materials, supplies
209	and labor upon requisition of the State Forestry Commission and
210	upon the issuance of warrants therefore by the Department of
211	Finance and Administration.
212	It is the intention of the Legislature that any revolving
213	funds in excess of the budgeted amount needed for the necessary
214	operation and maintenance of all properties under the direct
215	supervision and management of the State Forestry Commission shall
216	remain in the Camden State Forest Revolving Fund for use in future
217	years.

218	SECTION 11. It is the intention of the Legislature that the
219	Forestry Commission shall have the authority to escalate their
220	budget in an amount not to exceed Two Hundred Thousand Dollars
221	(\$200,000.00) of funds derived from Fund 341R in the State
222	Treasury to provide technical assistance to the Mississippi
223	Institute for Forest Inventory. Implementation of the escalation
224	shall be contingent upon passage of House Bill No. 1791 or Senate
225	Bill No. 2809 of the 2004 Regular Session.
226	SECTION 12. The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
227	the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
228	credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
229	warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
230	Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
231	proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.
232	SECTION 13. This act shall take effect and be in force from
233	and after July 1, 2004.

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

X (SIGNED) Johnny W. Stringer X (SIGNED) Jack Gordon

X (SIGNED)

X (SIGNED) Blaine Eaton

Sampson Jackson II

X (SIGNED) Tom Weathersby X (SIGNED) Lynn Posey