

By: Senator(s) Harvey

To: Forestry

SENATE BILL NO. 2520

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-19-403, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO PROVIDE FOR STAGGERED TERMS OF THE APPOINTED MEMBERS OF THE
3 BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE MISSISSIPPI INSTITUTE FOR FOREST
4 INVENTORY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 49-19-403, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 49-19-403. (1) (a) There is hereby created the Mississippi
9 Institute for Forest Inventory. The institute shall be governed
10 by a board of directors. The board shall consist of eleven (11)
11 members. The Director of the Mississippi Automated Resource
12 Information System; the Executive Director of the Mississippi
13 Development Authority, or his designee; the Director of the Forest
14 and Wildlife Research Center at Mississippi State University, or
15 his designee; and the State Forester, or his designee; shall be ex
16 officio members with full voting power.

17 (b) The Governor shall appoint four (4) members from
18 the state at large with the advice and consent of the
19 Senate. * * * The Governor shall appoint one (1) member from each
20 of the following categories: a private nonindustrial forest
21 landowner, a Mississippi registered forester, a certified wildlife
22 or fisheries biologist, and a representative of an environmental
23 organization. Appointments made after January 1, 2005, shall be
24 for initial terms as follows: a private nonindustrial forest
25 landowner, four (4) years; a Mississippi registered forester,
26 three (3) years; a certified wildlife or fisheries biologist, two
27 (2) years; and a representative of an environmental organization

28 one (1) year. After the expiration of the initial terms, the terms
29 shall be for four (4) years.

30 (c) The Lieutenant Governor shall appoint three (3)
31 members from the state at large with the advice and consent of the
32 Senate. The Lieutenant Governor shall appoint one (1) member from
33 each of the following categories: the timber harvesting industry,
34 the forest products industry, and a citizen with forestry related
35 interests. Appointments made after January 1, 2005, shall be for
36 initial terms as follows: timber harvesting industry, four (4)
37 years; forest products industry, three (3) years; and a citizen
38 with forestry related interests, two (2) years. After the
39 expiration of the initial terms, the terms shall be for four (4)
40 years.

41 (d) Members of the board may be reimbursed for mileage
42 and actual and necessary expenses as provided under Section
43 25-3-41.

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

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

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

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

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

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

62 (d) To authorize the executive director with the
63 approval of the board to execute all contracts and agreements and
64 to employ such personnel as may be required to carry out the
65 duties of the institute; and

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

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

70 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
71 and after passage.