

By: Senator(s) Dawkins

To: Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2663

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI GLOBAL CLIMATE STUDY COMMISSION  
2 FOR THE PURPOSE OF STUDYING THE IMPACTS THAT GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE WILL  
3 HAVE ON THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECOMMENDING  
4 APPROPRIATE STATE RESPONSES TO ADDRESS GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE AND  
5 PROBLEMS LIKELY TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH IT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 SECTION 1. (1) There is hereby created the Mississippi Global  
8 Climate Study Commission consisting of the following eleven (11)  
9 members:

10 (a) Four (4) members appointed by the Governor as follows:

11 (i) One (1) member who has scientific expertise in the  
12 area of global climate change;

13 (ii) One (1) member who has scientific expertise in  
14 the areas of alternative and renewable energy;

15 (iii) One (1) member representing the energy  
16 production industry; and

17 (iv) One (1) member representing a statewide  
18 environmental advocacy organization.

19 (b) The Executive Director of the Department of  
20 Environmental Quality, or his designee.

21 (c) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Development  
22 Authority, or his designee.

23 (d) Two (2) members of the House of Representatives,  
24 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

25 (e) Two (2) members of the Senate, appointed by the  
26 Lieutenant Governor.

27 (2) All appointments to the commission shall be made not later  
28 than ninety (90) days after the effective date of this act. The

29 commission shall elect one (1) of its members as chairperson and one (1)  
30 of its members as vice chairperson. Six (6) members of the commission  
31 shall constitute a quorum, and the affirmative vote of at least six (6)  
32 members shall be necessary for any action taken by the commission. A  
33 vacancy of an appointed member of the commission shall be filled in the  
34 same manner as the original appointment.

35 All members shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary  
36 expenses incurred in the discharge of their official duties as members  
37 of the commission.

38 (3) The commission shall conduct hearings and study the potential  
39 impacts that global climate change will have on Mississippi's economy,  
40 environment, natural resources, and people. Not later than December 31,  
41 2007, the commission shall issue a preliminary report of its findings  
42 and include in the report recommendations regarding the most effective  
43 actions that Mississippi should undertake to mitigate negative impacts  
44 related to global climate change and regarding the appropriate structure  
45 for a permanent Office of Climate Change within state government.  
46 Copies of the preliminary report shall be distributed to each member of  
47 the Legislature and the Governor and shall be made available to the  
48 public.

49 After the issuance of the preliminary report, the commission  
50 shall continue to conduct hearings concerning the content of the  
51 report. Not later than December 31, 2008, the commission shall  
52 issue a final report. Copies of the final report shall be  
53 distributed to each member of the Legislature and the Governor and  
54 shall be made available to the public. The commission shall  
55 continue in existence for the purpose of providing assistance  
56 regarding the issue of global climate change to the Legislature  
57 until June 30, 2009. After June 30, 2009, the commission shall  
58 cease to exist.

59 (4) The Department of Environmental Quality shall provide  
60 staff support and other necessary services for the purpose of  
61 assisting the commission.

62           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
63 and after its passage.