

By: Senator(s) Baria, Dawkins

To: Rules; Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 3176

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON CLIMATE
2 CHANGE; TO DIRECT THE COMMISSION TO STUDY ISSUES RELATED TO
3 CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE EMERGING CARBON MARKET; TO ESTABLISH A
4 CLIMATE CHANGE POLLUTANT REDUCTION GOAL AND COMPREHENSIVE
5 STRATEGIC PLAN; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** (1) The Governor's Commission on Climate Change
8 is hereby created and established, referred to hereafter as the
9 "commission."

10 (2) The commission shall be composed of twenty-one (21)
11 members appointed as follows:

12 (a) Two (2) members appointed by the Lieutenant
13 Governor;

14 (b) Two (2) members appointed by the Speaker of the
15 House of Representatives; and

16 (c) Seventeen (17) members appointed by the Governor as
17 follows:

18 (i) One (1) member from the public energy sector;

19 (ii) One (1) member from a rural electric
20 cooperative;

21 (iii) One (1) member from the municipal energy
22 sector;

23 (iv) Two (2) members from the agriculture sector;

24 (v) One (1) member from the forestry sector;

25 (vi) Two (2) members from separate nonprofit
26 environmental organizations;

27 (vii) 1. Three (3) members who are scientists
28 from an accredited university;



29 2. One (1) of the three (3) scientists shall
30 be a climatologist;

31 (viii) One (1) member from the Mississippi
32 Economic Council;

33 (ix) One (1) member of the AFL-CIO;

34 (x) One (1) member who is an economist from a
35 Mississippi state institution of higher learning;

36 (xi) One (1) member from the construction industry
37 with experience in sustainable energy construction or design; and

38 (xii) Two (2) members who are citizens at large.

39 (3) The commission shall establish and appoint an advisory
40 body composed of the directors of the following state agencies, or
41 his or her designee:

42 (a) Mississippi Department of Agriculture;

43 (b) Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality;

44 (c) Mississippi Forestry Commission;

45 (d) Mississippi Department of Transportation;

46 (e) Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and
47 Parks;

48 (f) Mississippi Public Service Commission;

49 (g) Mississippi State Board of Health;

50 (h) Mississippi Development Authority; and

51 (i) Mississippi Oil and Gas Board.

52 **SECTION 2.** (1) The commission shall have two (2) co-chairs
53 to be elected from among the members of the commission.

54 (2) A quorum of the commission shall consist of a majority
55 of the members.

56 (3) A vacancy on the commission shall be filled as soon as
57 possible by the appointing authority.

58 **SECTION 3.** (1) The commission shall conduct an in-depth
59 examination and evaluation of the issues related to climate change
60 and the potential impacts of climate change on the state, its
61 citizens, its natural resources, and its economy, including



62 without limitation, agriculture, travel and tourism, recreation,
63 insurance and economic growth and development.

64 (2) Based on the commission's evaluation of the current
65 climate change data, the assessment of climate change mitigation
66 strategies, and the available climate change pollutant reduction
67 strategies, the commission shall set forth:

68 (a) A climate change pollutant reduction goal; and

69 (b) A comprehensive strategic plan for implementation
70 of the climate change pollutant reduction goal.

71 (3) The commission shall present its climate change
72 pollutant reduction goal and comprehensive strategic plan for
73 consideration to the Legislature.

74 (4) The purpose of the climate change pollutant reduction
75 goal and comprehensive strategic plan is to place Mississippi in a
76 position to help stabilize the global climate, to allow
77 Mississippi to lead the nation in attracting clean and renewable
78 energy industries to our state, and to reduce consumer energy
79 dependence on current carbon-generating technologies and
80 expenditures.

81 (5) In fulfilling its purpose under this act, the commission
82 shall:

83 (a) Review current scientific literature on the causes
84 of climate change;

85 (b) Review actions taken by the federal government and
86 by other states to address climate change;

87 (c) Evaluate the available data regarding emissions of
88 greenhouse gases from within the state and evaluate the extent to
89 which reductions in the emissions of greenhouse gases in the state
90 may affect climate change;

91 (d) Evaluate the economic opportunities for the state
92 from the emerging carbon market that may result from
93 international, national and local efforts to address the effect of
94 climate change;



95 (e) Conduct a cost-effectiveness analysis based on the
96 projected expenses of taking immediate action versus delayed
97 action to address the effect of climate change on individuals,
98 households, local and state governments, businesses, educational
99 institutions, medical institutions, agricultural operations, and
100 other sectors identified by the commission;

101 (f) Evaluate the benefit of any action taken at the
102 state level, either by or within this state or by other states, at
103 the national level, or at the international level to address the
104 effect of climate change on individuals, households, local and
105 state governments, businesses, educational institutions,
106 agricultural operations, medical institutions, and other sectors
107 identified by the commission; and

108 (g) The Governor's Commission on Climate Change is
109 authorized to accept gifts, grants and donations for use in
110 carrying out its purpose and duties.

111 **SECTION 4.** The commission may work cooperatively with other
112 states and federal governmental agencies to organize a Governor's
113 forum on climate change, including its causes, impacts, challenges
114 and opportunities in the region.

115 **SECTION 5.** The Commissioner of Agriculture shall assign
116 staff to the commission to aid in its work.

117 **SECTION 6.** The Governor shall convene the first meeting of
118 the commission, which shall be at the New Capitol. Further
119 meetings shall be at the call of the co-chairs.

120 **SECTION 7.** The commission shall report its findings and
121 recommendations to the Governor on or before November 1, 2009, in
122 order to report its findings and recommendations to the
123 Legislature.

124 **SECTION 8.** The commission shall be abolished on or before
125 December 31, 2009, at the discretion of the Governor.

126 **SECTION 9.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
127 and after July 1, 2009.

