

By: Representative Morgan

To: Forestry

HOUSE BILL NO. 1531

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE USE OF WOOD PELLETS FOR FUEL; TO
 2 DEFINE CERTAIN TERMS RELATING TO THIS ACT; TO REQUIRE THAT
 3 PRODUCERS OF SUCH WOOD PELLETS ENSURE THAT THE FINISHED PRODUCT
 4 MEETS ALL FEDERAL AND STATE STANDARDS; TO PROHIBIT SUCH WOOD
 5 PELLETS FROM BEING TRANSFERRED, SOLD, EXCHANGED, DELIVERED, USED
 6 OR DISPOSED OF BY ANY OTHER MEANS UNTIL APPROVED BY THE
 7 COMMISSIONER OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND
 8 COMMERCE AND THE STATE CHEMIST; TO REQUIRE THAT ALL CONTAINERS OR
 9 SIMILAR RECEPTACLES, WHENEVER CONTAINING WOOD PELLETS USED FOR
 10 FUEL FOR SALE OR DELIVERY, BE MARKED OR LABELED AS TO PLAINLY SHOW
 11 THE WEIGHT OF ITS CONTENTS; TO PROVIDE THAT THE COMMISSIONER AND
 12 THE STATE CHEMIST HAVE JOINT AUTHORITY FOR SETTING SPECIFICATIONS
 13 OF WOOD PELLETS USED FOR FUEL AND SHALL HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO
 14 ESTABLISH RULES AND REGULATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE ENFORCEMENT
 15 OF THIS ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

17 **SECTION 1.** (1) As used in this act, the following terms have
 18 the meanings as defined in this section, unless the context
 19 clearly indicates otherwise:

20 (a) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the
 21 Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, or his or her
 22 agents and employees.



23 (b) "State chemist" means the Director of the
24 Mississippi State Chemical Laboratory, or his or her agents and
25 employees.

26 (c) "Wood pellets" means a wood fuel product
27 manufactured from compressed sawdust or other wood by-product that
28 is pressed or extruded into pieces of uniform size and shape that
29 are designed to be fed in bulk to a combustion chamber.

30 (2) The use of wood pellets for fuel is authorized in the
31 State of Mississippi.

32 (3) Producers of wood pellets used for fuel shall ensure
33 that the finished product meets all federal and state standards
34 and specifications, and such wood pellets shall not be
35 transferred, sold, exchanged, delivered, used or disposed of by
36 any other means until approved by the commissioner and the state
37 chemist.

38 (4) All containers or similar receptacles, whenever
39 containing wood pellets used for fuel for sale or delivery, shall
40 be marked or labeled as to plainly show the weight of its
41 contents. Such container or similar receptacle shall be
42 accompanied by a bill of sale bearing the name and address of the
43 seller, the name and address of the purchaser, and the weight of
44 the wood pellets contained in the delivery. At the time of
45 delivery, the bill of sale, signed by the seller, shall be given
46 to the purchaser specified thereon.



47 (5) The Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce, is charged
48 with the duty of administering and enforcing the provisions of
49 this act, and he or she shall have the authority to establish
50 rules and regulations in connection with the enforcement of this
51 act.

52 (6) The State Chemist is charged with the duty of
53 administering the provisions of this act, and he or she shall have
54 the authority to establish rules and regulations in connection
55 with its enforcement.

56 (7) The commissioner and the State Chemist shall have joint
57 authority for setting specifications of wood pellets used for fuel
58 and shall have the authority to establish rules and regulations in
59 connection with the enforcement of this act.

60 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
61 and after July 1, 2024.

