

By: Representative Fondren

To: Marine Resources

HOUSE BILL NO. 765

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI MENHADEN PROCESSING PLANT
2 ODOR ELIMINATION TASK FORCE; TO PROVIDE FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE
3 TASK FORCE; TO PROVIDE THE DUTIES OF THE TASK FORCE; AND FOR
4 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created the Mississippi Menhaden
7 Processing Plant Odor Elimination Task Force to review and make
8 recommendations on how to eliminate the odor and toxic air
9 pollution produced by the menhaden processing plants on the
10 Mississippi Gulf Coast.

11 (2) The task force shall be composed of the following
12 members:

13 (a) The Executive Director of the Department of Marine
14 Resources, or his or her designee;

15 (b) The Executive Director of the Department of
16 Environmental Quality, or his or her designee;

17 (c) Two (2) members of the Mississippi House of
18 Representatives who represent districts on the Mississippi Gulf



Coast, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
Representatives;

(d) Two (2) members of the Mississippi Senate who
represent districts on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, to be appointed
by the Lieutenant Governor;

(3) The duties of the task force shall include the
following:

(a) Identify how much of the air quality on the
Mississippi Gulf Coast is affected by the odors and toxic
pollution produced by the menhaden processing plant;

(b) Determine what measures, if any, have been put into
place by the menhaden processing plant to reduce the odor being
emitted;

(c) Determine what changes need to be made at the
menhaden processing plant to reduce the odor being emitted; and

(d) Determine what state law changes need to be made to
prevent the menhaden processing plant from producing odors and
toxic pollution.

(4) (a) Appointments to the task force shall be made within
thirty (30) days after the effective date of this act. Within
fifteen (15) days thereafter on a day to be designated jointly by
the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Lieutenant
Governor, the task force shall meet and organize by selecting from
its membership a chair and a vice chair. The vice chair shall
also serve as secretary and shall be responsible for keeping all



44 records of the task force. Four (4) of the members of the task
45 force shall constitute a quorum. In the selection of its officers
46 and the adoption of rules, resolutions and reports, an affirmative
47 vote of a majority of the task force shall be required. All
48 members shall be notified in writing of all meetings, and those
49 notices shall be mailed at least fifteen (15) days before the date
50 on which a meeting is to be held.

51 (b) The task force shall meet at least once each month
52 and provide monthly reports to the Legislature on its activities.

53 (c) The task force shall make a final report of its
54 findings and recommendations, including any recommended
55 legislation, to the Legislature not later than December 1, 2025,
56 at which time the task force will be dissolved.

57 (5) Members of the task force shall receive no compensation
58 for their service on the task force, but may receive reimbursement
59 for mileage and actual expenses as provided in Section 25-3-41, to
60 the extent that funds are available for that purpose.

61 (6) The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources shall
62 provide the staff and other support necessary for the task force
63 to perform its duties.

64 (7) To effectuate the purposes of this act, any department,
65 division, board, bureau, committee, institution or agency of the
66 state, or any political subdivision thereof, shall, at the request
67 of the chairman of the task force, provide the facilities,



68 assistance, information and data needed to enable the task force
69 to carry out its duties.

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

