## Senate Amendments to House Bill No. 1726

## TO THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE:

THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT THE SENATE HAS ADOPTED THE AMENDMENTS SET OUT BELOW:

## AMENDMENT NO. 1

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

5	SECTION 1. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
6	necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State General
7	Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the support and maintenance
8	of the State Forestry Commission for the fiscal year beginning
9	July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026
10	\$ 17,274,665.00.
11	SECTION 2. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
12	necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the special fund in
13	the State Treasury to the credit of the State Forestry Commission
14	which is comprised of special source funds collected by or
15	otherwise available to the commission, for the support and
16	maintenance of the commission for the fiscal year beginning
17	July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026 13,495,131.00.
18	SECTION 3. Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
19	this act, the following positions are authorized:
20	AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:
21	Permanent: 246
	H. B. 1726

22 Time-Limited: 7

23 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's 24 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal Services for Fiscal Year 2027 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2026 funds 25 26 appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are 27 added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2026 budget by the Mississippi 28 Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's 29 personal services appropriation, which the State Personnel Board 30 The agency's personal services appropriation may shall publish. 31 consist of restricted funds for approved vacancies for Fiscal Year 32 2026 that may be utilized to fill vacant Fiscal Year 2025 33 headcount. It shall be the agency's responsibility to ensure that 34 the funds provided for vacancies are used to increase headcount 35 and not for promotions, title changes, in-range salary adjustments 36 or any other mechanism for increasing salaries for current 37 employees. It is the Legislature's intention that no employee 38 salary falls below the minimum salary established by the 39 Mississippi State Personnel Board.

Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2026 do not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If the agency's Fiscal Year 2026 projected cost exceeds the annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

- 47 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be
- 48 essential for the agency.
- Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
- 50 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law or
- 51 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State
- 52 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written
- 53 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The
- 54 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written
- 55 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions
- 56 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the
- 57 appropriated level.
- No general funds authorized to be expended herein shall be
- 59 used to replace federal funds and/or other special funds used for
- 60 salaries authorized under the provisions of this act and which are
- 61 withdrawn and no longer available.
- None of the funds herein appropriated shall be used in
- 63 violation of the Internal Revenue Service's Publication 15-A
- 64 relating to the reporting of income paid to contract employees, as
- 65 interpreted by the Office of the State Auditor.
- 66 **SECTION 4.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
- 67 State Forestry Commission shall maintain complete accounting and
- 68 personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds
- 69 appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the
- 70 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year
- 71 2025. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the
- 72 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2027 shall be submitted to

73	the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of
74	detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided
75	during the Fiscal Year 2026 budget request process.
76	SECTION 5. In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance
77	Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of
78	the Legislature that the funds provided herein shall be utilized
79	in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the
80	intended mission of this agency. Based on the funding authorized,
81	this agency shall make every effort to attain the targeted
82	performance measures provided below:
83	FY2026
84	Performance Measures Target
85	Forest Protection & Information
86	Average Suppression Time (Hrs from
87	Detection to Control) 2.80
88	Number of Acres Burned Under a
89	Prescribed Burn Program 15,000
90	Percent of Fires Suppressed at 100 Acres
91	or Less 95.00
92	Forest Management
93	Forest Resource Development Program
94	Acres Regenerated or Improved 35,000
95	Acres Monitored for Insect, Storm or Disease 19,200,000
96	Re-Inventory 20% of State's Forest Lands
97	(% of Regions) 20.00
98	Percent Increase of Re-Inventory of

99 State Forest Land 20.00

100 A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets

- 101 set above have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the
- 102 agency's budget request submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget
- 103 Committee for Fiscal Year 2027.
- 104 **SECTION 6.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, it is the
- 105 intention of the Legislature that Two Hundred Thousand Dollars
- 106 (\$200,000.00) shall be transferred to the Department of
- 107 Agriculture and Commerce for the Beaver Control or Eradication
- 108 Program during the Fiscal Year 2026.
- 109 **SECTION 7.** Any funds in the Salary, Wages and Fringe
- 110 Benefits major object of expenditure may be used to purchase
- 111 accumulated compensatory time within the funds available.
- 112 **SECTION 8.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
- 113 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
- 114 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
- 115 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
- 116 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
- 117 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
- 118 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
- 119 made without competitive bids.
- 120 **SECTION 9.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
- 121 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with
- 122 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency
- 123 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their
- 124 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally

- or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for actions contrary to this provision.
- SECTION 10. The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
  the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
  credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
  warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
  Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
  proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.
- SECTION 11. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2025, and shall stand repealed from and after June 30, 2025.

## Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE SUPPORT AND
MAINTENANCE OF THE STATE FORESTRY COMMISSION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
3 2026.

SS15\HB1726A.J

Amanda White Secretary of the Senate