

**Adopted
COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED TO**

House Bill No. 1726

BY: Committee

**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



otherwise available to the commission, for the support and maintenance of the commission for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 13,495,131.00.

SECTION 3. Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of this act, the following positions are authorized:

AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

Permanent: 246

Time-Limited: 7

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



40 Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and
41 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current
42 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to
43 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2026 do
44 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If
45 the agency's Fiscal Year 2026 projected cost exceeds the
46 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the
47 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be
48 essential for the agency.

49 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.

58 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.

62 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:

	FY2026
<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
Forest Protection & Information	
Average Suppression Time (Hrs from	
Detection to Control)	2.80
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
125 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for
126 actions contrary to this provision.

127 **SECTION 10.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
128 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
129 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
130 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
131 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
132 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

133 **SECTION 11.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
134 and after July 1, 2025, and shall stand repealed from and after
135 June 30, 2025.

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



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

