

By: Eaton

To: Agriculture

HOUSE BILL NO. 613

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-19-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 PLACE THE COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE AS AN EX OFFICIO MEMBER OF
3 THE STATE FORESTRY COMMISSION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 49-19-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 49-19-1. (1) There shall be a State Forestry Commission
8 composed of ten (10) members, who shall be qualified electors of
9 the state. The Dean of the School of Forest Resources at
10 Mississippi State University and the Commissioner of Agriculture
11 and Commerce, or his designee, shall be * * * ex officio members
12 of the commission, with full voting authority. The Governor shall
13 appoint eight (8) members, with the advice and consent of the
14 Senate, for a term of six (6) years. The Governor shall appoint
15 one (1) member from each congressional district as constituted at
16 the time the appointments are made and shall appoint the remainder
17 of the members from the state at large. A member from a
18 congressional district must be a certified tree farmer who owns
19 eighty (80) or more acres of forest land or a person who derives a
20 major portion of his personal income from forest-related business,
21 industry or other related activities. Members of the commission

22 from the state at large may or may not possess the same
23 qualifications as members appointed from the congressional
24 districts.

25 (2) The members of the commission shall receive no annual
26 salary but each member of the commission shall receive a per diem
27 plus expenses and mileage as authorized by law for each day
28 devoted to the discharge of official duties. No member of the
29 commission shall receive total per diem in excess of twenty-four
30 (24) days' compensation per annum.

31 (3) If a vacancy occurs in the office of an appointed member
32 of the commission, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment for
33 the balance of the unexpired term.

34 (4) The commission shall elect from its membership a
35 chairman, who shall preside over meetings, and a vice-chairman,
36 who shall preside in the absence of the chairman or when the
37 chairman is excused.

38 (5) The commission shall adopt rules and regulations
39 governing times and places for meetings, and governing the manner
40 of conducting its business. Each member of the commission shall
41 take the oath prescribed by Section 268 of the Constitution and
42 shall enter into bond in the amount of Thirty Thousand Dollars
43 (\$30,000.00) to be approved by the Secretary of State, conditioned
44 according to law and payable to the State of Mississippi before
45 assuming the duties of office.

46 (6) Any appointment made to the commission contrary to this
47 section shall be void, and it is unlawful for the State Fiscal
48 Officer to pay any per diem or authorize the expenses of the
49 appointee.

50 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
51 and after July 1, 2000.