

By: Posey

To: Wildlife and  
Fisheries

SENATE BILL NO. 2150

1 AN ACT TO AMEND CHAPTER 478, GENERAL LAWS OF 1998, AS AMENDED  
2 BY CHAPTER 551, GENERAL LAWS OF 1999, TO EXTEND THE LIFE OF THE  
3 JOINT NATURAL AND SCENIC RIVER STUDY COMMITTEE FOR ONE YEAR; AND  
4 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 SECTION 1. Chapter 478, General Laws of 1998, as amended by  
7 Chapter 551, General Laws of 1999, is amended as follows:

8 Section 1. (1) The natural and scenic river study  
9 committee, created under Chapter 478, General Laws of 1998, is  
10 continued and reconstituted, and shall continue to function until  
11 it is dissolved under subsection (5) of this section. The  
12 committee shall consist of the following members: (a) the  
13 Chairman of the House Game and Fish Committee; the Chairman of the  
14 House Conservation and Water Resources Committee; the Chairman of  
15 the House Agriculture Committee; and two (2) members of each of  
16 such committees to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; and  
17 (b) the Chairman of the Senate Wildlife and Fisheries Committee;  
18 the Chairman of the Senate Environmental Protection, Conservation  
19 and Water Resources Committee; the Chairman of the Senate  
20 Agriculture Committee; and two (2) members of each of such  
21 committees to be appointed by the chairman of the respective  
22 Senate committees.

23           The Chairman of the House Game and Fish Committee and the  
24 Chairman of the Senate Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks Committee  
25 shall serve as cochair of the study committee.

26           For attending meetings of the committee, each legislative  
27 member shall be paid per diem in the amount authorized by Section  
28 25-3-69 and a mileage allowance and an expense allowance in the  
29 amount authorized by Section 5-1-47 from the contingent expense  
30 fund of his respective house. However, no per diem, mileage  
31 allowance or expense allowance shall be paid for attending  
32 meetings of the committee while the Legislature is in session, and  
33 no per diem, mileage allowance or expense allowance shall be paid  
34 without prior approval of the proper committee in the member's  
35 respective house.

36           (2) In conducting its activities, the committee may elicit  
37 the support of and participation by any commercial, industrial,  
38 governmental, environmental, minority and public interest  
39 organizations and associations, or individual members thereof, and  
40 any federal, state and local agencies and political subdivisions  
41 as may be necessary or appropriate in the furtherance of the  
42 study.

43           (3) The Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks shall  
44 coordinate the study of certain natural and scenic rivers in the  
45 state. The study shall be conducted in order to assess and  
46 document the ecological, scenic, recreational and natural  
47 characteristics of these rivers; to consider the feasibility of a  
48 program for conserving the quality of scenic rivers; to recommend  
49 a plan of nonregulatory incentive programs to encourage landowner  
50 participation in any stream protection program that may be  
51 recommended; to ensure any activities on a natural and scenic  
52 river shall be according to best management practices; to ensure  
53 that any natural and scenic river program shall be administered

54 solely by the State of Mississippi.

55 (4) The committee shall seek public oral and written  
56 comments on the scenic rivers.

57 (5) The committee shall prepare a report of the study with  
58 recommendations and file the report with the Legislature by  
59 January 4, 2001. Upon presentation of its report to the  
60 Legislature, the committee shall be dissolved.

61 (6) For purpose of the study, a "natural and scenic river"  
62 means a river, stream or bayou or segment thereof that is in a  
63 free-flowing condition, that has not been channelized, cleared and  
64 snagged within the past five (5) years, realigned, inundated or  
65 otherwise altered and has a shoreline covered by native vegetation  
66 and has no or few man-made structures along its banks.

67 Section 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
68 and after its passage.

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70 and after its passage.