

*****Adopted*****

AMENDMENT No. 1 PROPOSED TO

House Bill NO. 245

By Senator(s) Committee

6 Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting
7in lieu thereof the following:

8

9 SECTION 1. Section 49-19-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
10amended as follows:

11 49-19-3. The duties and powers of the commission shall be:

12 (1) To appoint a state forester, who shall serve at the will
13and pleasure of the commission and who is qualified to perform the
14duties as set forth herein; and to pay him such salary as is
15provided by the Legislature, and allow him such office expenses
16incidental to the performance of his official duties as the
17commission, in its discretion, may deem necessary; and to charge
18him with the immediate direction and control, subject to the
19supervision and approval of the commission, of all matters
20relating to forestry as authorized herein. Any person appointed
21by the commission as state forester shall have received a
22bachelor's degree in forestry from an accredited school or college
23of forestry and shall be licensed and registered under the
24provisions of the Mississippi Foresters Registration Law (Section
2573-36-1 et seq.) and in addition shall have had at least five (5)
26years' administrative experience in a forestry-related field.

27 (2) To take such action and provide and maintain such
28organized means as may seem necessary and expedient to prevent,

29control and extinguish forest fires, including the enforcement of
30any and all laws pertaining to the protection of forests and
31woodland.

32 (3) To encourage forest and tree planting for the production
33of a wood crop, for the protection of water supply, for windbreak
34and shade, or for any other beneficial purposes contributing to
35the general welfare, public hygiene and comfort of the people.

36 (4) To cause to be made such technical investigations and
37studies concerning forest conditions, the propagation, care and
38protection of forest and shade trees, the care and management of
39forests, their growth, yield and the products and by-products
40thereof, and any other competent subject, including forest
41taxation, bearing on the timber supply and needs of the state,
42which the commission, in its discretion, may deem proper.

43 (5) To assist and cooperate with any federal or state
44department or institution, county, town, corporation or
45individual, under such terms as in the judgment of the commission
46will best serve the public interest, in the preparation and
47execution of plans for the protection, management, replacement, or
48extension of the forest, woodland and roadside or other ornamental
49tree growth in the state.

50 (6) To encourage public interest in forestry by means of
51correspondence, the public press, periodicals, the publication of
52bulletins and leaflets for general distribution, the delivery of
53lectures in the schools and other suitable means, and to cooperate
54to the fullest extent with the extension department services of
55the state colleges in promoting reforestation. It shall be the
56duty of the state forester to cooperate with private timber owners
57in laying plans for the protection, management and replacement of
58forests and in aiding them to form protection associations. It
59shall be his duty to examine all timbered lands belonging to the
60state and its institutions and report to the commission upon their
61timber conditions and actual value, and also whether some of these
62lands may not be held as state forests. He shall be responsible
63for the protection and management of lands donated, purchased or

64belonging to the state or state institutions, and all other lands
65reserved by the state as state forests.

66 (7) To control the expenditure of any and all funds
67appropriated or otherwise made available for the several purposes
68set forth herein under suitable regulations and restrictions by
69the commission and to specifically authorize any officer or
70employee of the commission to incur necessary and stipulated
71expenses in connection with the work in which such person may be
72engaged.

73 (8) To submit annually to the Legislature a report of the
74expenditures, proceedings and results achieved, together with such
75other matters including recommendations concerning legislation as
76are germane to the aims and purposes of this chapter.

77 (9) To create, establish and organize the State of
78Mississippi into forestry districts for the most effective and
79efficient administration of the commission.

80 (10) To appoint, upon the state forester's recommendation,
81six (6) individuals who shall be designated Mississippi Forestry
82Commission Law Enforcement Officers with authority to bear arms,
83investigate and make arrests; however, the law enforcement duties
84and authority of the officers shall be limited to woods arson.
85The officers shall comply with applicable minimum educational and
86training standards for law enforcement officers. This subsection
87(10) shall stand repealed on June 30, 2005.

88 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
89and after its passage.

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

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-19-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2EXTEND THE REPEALER ON FORESTRY ARSON INVESTIGATORS AND TO
3INCREASE THE NUMBER OF AUTHORIZED INVESTIGATORS; AND FOR RELATED
4PURPOSES.