

By: Senator(s) Posey

To: Agriculture;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2795

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 69-46-1, 69-46-3,69-46-5 AND
2 69-46-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE THE MISSISSIPPI LAND,
3 WATER AND TIMBER RESOURCES ACT TO INCLUDE WILDLIFE RESOURCES AND
4 PRODUCTS WITHIN THE ACT; TO REVISE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE
5 MISSISSIPPI LAND, WATER AND TIMBER RESOURCES BOARD TO INCLUDE THE
6 CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE, OR HIS
7 DESIGNEE, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES GAME
8 AND FISH COMMITTEE, OR HIS DESIGNEE, AS NONVOTING MEMBERS; TO
9 INCLUDE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF SUCH BOARD THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
10 THE DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS; AND FOR RELATED
11 PURPOSES.

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

13 SECTION 1. Section 69-46-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
14 amended as follows:

15 69-46-1. This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the
16 "Mississippi Land, Water, Timber and Wildlife Resources Act."

17 SECTION 2. Section 69-46-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
18 amended as follows:

19 69-46-3. (1) There is created the Mississippi Land, Water,
20 Timber and Wildlife Resources Board, hereinafter referred to as
21 "the board," for the purpose of assisting * * * in the
22 development, marketing and distribution of agricultural products
23 and wildlife products and resources.

24 (2) The board shall be composed of the following members:

25 (a) The Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee,
26 or a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee designated by the
27 chairman, as a nonvoting member;

28 (b) The Chairman of the House of Representatives
29 Agriculture Committee or a member of the House of Representatives

30 Agriculture Committee designated by the chairman, as a nonvoting
31 member;

32 (c) The Chairman of the Senate Forestry Committee, or a
33 member of the Senate Forestry Committee designated by the
34 chairman, as a nonvoting member;

35 (d) The Chairman of the Senate Wildlife and Fisheries
36 Committee, or a member of the Senate Wildlife and Fisheries
37 Committee designated by the chairman, as a nonvoting member;

38 (e) The Chairman of the House of Representatives Game
39 and Fish Committee, or a member of the House of Representatives
40 Game and Fish Committee designated by the chairman, as a nonvoting
41 member;

42 (f) The Executive Director of the Mississippi
43 Development Authority, or his designee;

44 (g) The Commissioner of the Mississippi Department of
45 Agriculture and Commerce, or his designee;

46 (h) The President of the Mississippi Farm Bureau
47 Federation, or his designee;

48 (i) The Director of the Cooperative Extension Service
49 at Mississippi State University, or his designee;

50 (j) The Executive Director of the Agribusiness and
51 Natural Resource Development Center at Alcorn State University, or
52 his designee;

53 (k) The Director of the Agricultural Finance Division
54 of the Mississippi Development Authority, or his designee;

55 (l) The Director of the Agriculture Marketing Division
56 of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, or his
57 designee;

58 (m) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Forestry
59 Commission, or his designee; * * *

60 (n) The Executive Director of the Department of
61 Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks; and

62 (o) Three (3) individuals appointed by the Governor who
63 are active producers of Mississippi land, water or timber
64 commodities or wildlife products. The Governor shall appoint one
65 (1) such person from each Supreme Court district.

66 (3) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Development
67 Authority and the Commissioner of the Mississippi Department of
68 Agriculture and Commerce shall serve as co-chairmen of the board.

69 (4) The board shall meet at least once each calendar quarter
70 at the call of the co-chairmen. A majority of the members of the
71 board shall constitute a quorum at all meetings. An affirmative
72 vote of a majority of the members present and voting is required
73 in the adoption of any actions taken by the board. All members
74 must be notified, in writing, of all regular and special meetings
75 of the board, which notices must be mailed at least ten (10) days
76 before the dates of the meetings. All meetings shall take place
77 at the State Capitol in Jackson, Mississippi. The board shall
78 provide a copy of the minutes of each of its meetings to the
79 Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee and the Chairman of
80 the House of Representatives Agriculture Committee.

81 (5) Members of the board shall not receive compensation.
82 However, each member may be paid travel expenses and meals and
83 lodging expenses as provided in Section 25-3-41, for such expenses
84 incurred in furtherance of their duties. Travel expenses and
85 meals and lodging expenses and other necessary expenses incurred
86 by the board shall be paid out of funds appropriated to the
87 Mississippi Development Authority.

88 (6) In carrying out the provisions of the Mississippi Land,
89 Water, Timber and Wildlife Resources Act, the board may utilize
90 the services, facilities and personnel of all departments,
91 agencies, offices and institutions of the state, and all such
92 departments, agencies, offices and institutions shall cooperate
93 with the board in carrying out the provisions of such act.

94 SECTION 3. Section 69-46-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
95 amended as follows:

96 69-46-5. The board shall have the following powers and
97 duties:

98 (a) To develop marketing plans and opportunities for
99 independent farmers in Mississippi;

100 (b) To develop marketing plans and opportunities for
101 Mississippi's wildlife resources and products;

102 (c) To encourage the commercialization of new
103 agricultural technology businesses;

104 (d) To initiate the development of processing
105 facilities for Mississippi agricultural commodities;

106 (e) To initiate the development of Mississippi
107 wholesale distribution businesses for agricultural inputs and
108 products;

109 (f) To promote the development of institutional and
110 specialty markets for Mississippi agriculture products and
111 wildlife resources;

112 (g) To encourage additional research for new
113 agricultural product development;

114 (h) To develop a working relationship with the state
115 offices of the United States Department of Agriculture as may be
116 appropriate for the promotion and development of agriculture in
117 Mississippi;

118 (i) To promote the rural quality of life in Mississippi
119 through such programs as 4-H, Future Farmers of America and
120 agricultural education;

121 (j) To file an annual report with the Governor,
122 Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of
123 Representatives not later than December 1 of each year, with
124 recommendations for any legislation necessary to accomplish the
125 purposes of the Mississippi Land, Water, Timber and Wildlife
126 Resources Act;

127 (k) The board may promulgate and enforce rules and
128 regulations, in accordance with the Mississippi Administrative
129 Procedures Law, as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of
130 the Mississippi Land, Water, Timber and Wildlife Resources Act;

131 (k) To expend funds out of the Mississippi Land, Water,
132 Timber and Wildlife Resources Fund, upon legislative
133 appropriation, to carry out its powers and duties under the
134 Mississippi Land, Water, Timber and Wildlife Resources Act.

135 SECTION 4. Section 69-46-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
136 amended as follows:

137 69-46-7. The Mississippi Land, Water, Timber and Wildlife
138 Resources Board may accept and expend funds appropriated or
139 otherwise made available by the Legislature and funds from any
140 other source in order to carry out the provisions of the
141 Mississippi Land, Water, Timber and Wildlife Resources Act. Such
142 funds shall be deposited into a special fund hereby established in
143 the State Treasury, to be known as the "Mississippi Land, Water,
144 Timber and Wildlife Resources Fund." Unexpended amounts derived
145 from bond proceeds or private funds, or both, remaining in the
146 fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not lapse into the State
147 General Fund, and any investment earnings or interest earned on
148 such amounts in the fund shall be deposited to the credit of the
149 fund. All other unexpended amounts remaining in the fund at the
150 end of a fiscal year shall lapse into the State General Fund.

151 SECTION 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from
152 and after its passage.