

HOUSE BILL NO. 1785  
(As Passed the House)

1           AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE SUPPORT AND  
2 MAINTENANCE OF THE STATE FORESTRY COMMISSION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR  
3 2003.

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

5           **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
6 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State  
7 General Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the support and  
8 maintenance of the State Forestry Commission for the fiscal year  
9 beginning July 1, 2002, and ending June 30, 2003.....  
10 ..... \$       19,094,933.00.

11           **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
12 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the special  
13 fund in the State Treasury to the credit of the State Forestry  
14 Commission which is comprised of special source funds collected by  
15 or otherwise available to the commission, for the support and  
16 maintenance of the commission for the fiscal year beginning  
17 July 1, 2002, and ending June 30, 2003.....  
18 ..... \$       10,731,149.00.

19           Of the funds specified in this section, Two Hundred Fifty  
20 Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) shall be deposited in a fund  
21 created in the State Treasury called the "Forest Improvement  
22 Revolving Fund." Money in this fund shall be used by the State  
23 Forestry Commission to assist in the reforestation and growth  
24 improvement of the forests, woodlands, and publicly owned lands of  
25 the state, including sixteenth section lands, Camp Shelby,  
26 Columbia Training School and colleges and universities.  
27 Landowners who contract with the commission for such work shall

28 pay to the commission its actual cost for conducting such work.  
29 Money received for this work by the commission shall be paid into  
30 the State Treasury, and the State Treasurer shall deposit such  
31 money in the "Forest Improvement Revolving Fund."

32 **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
33 Sections 1 and 2, not more than the amounts set forth below shall  
34 be expended for the respective major objects or purposes of  
35 expenditure:

36 MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE:

37 Personal Services:

38	Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits.. \$	20,474,706.00
39	Travel and Subsistence.....	60,000.00
40	Contractual Services.....	2,242,495.00
41	Commodities.....	2,248,881.00

42 Capital Outlay:

43	Other Than Equipment.....	100,000.00
44	Equipment.....	1,200,000.00
45	Subsidies, Loans and Grants.....	<u>3,500,000.00</u>
46	Total..... \$	29,826,082.00

47 FUNDING:

48	General Funds..... \$	19,094,933.00
49	Special Funds.....	<u>10,731,149.00</u>
50	Total..... \$	29,826,082.00

51 AUTHORIZED POSITIONS:

52	Permanent: Full Time.....	653
53	Part Time.....	58
54	Time-Limited: Full Time.....	0
55	Part Time.....	0

56 Funds are provided herein to adjust the Variable Compensation  
57 Plan to ensure that all full-time employees receive a pay increase  
58 equal to fifty percent (50%) of the realignment component of the  
59 Variable Compensation Plan or Six Hundred Dollars (\$600.00),  
60 whichever is greater, beginning on January 1, 2003.



61       With the funds herein appropriated, it is the intention of  
62 the Legislature that it shall be the agency's responsibility to  
63 make certain that funds required to be appropriated for "Personal  
64 Services" for Fiscal Year 2004 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2003  
65 funds appropriated for that purpose, unless programs, positions or  
66 pay increases are added to the agency's budget by the Mississippi  
67 Legislature. Based on data provided by the Legislative Budget  
68 Office, the State Personnel Board shall, on July 1, 2002, publish  
69 separate annual projection reports, based on July 1, 2002 data,  
70 for the period of July 1, 2002 through December 31, 2002, and  
71 January 1, 2003 through June 30, 2003, that project the annual  
72 cost to fully fund all appropriated positions in compliance with  
73 the provisions of this act. It shall be the responsibility of the  
74 agency head to ensure that no single personnel action increases  
75 this projected cost and/or the Fiscal Year 2003 appropriation for  
76 "Personal Services," as annualized on a semi-annual basis in  
77 accordance with the provisions of this act. If, at the end of any  
78 calendar month, the State Personnel Board determines that the  
79 agency has taken action(s) which would cause the agency to exceed  
80 this projected annual cost or the Fiscal Year 2003 "Personal  
81 Services" appropriated level, when annualized in compliance with  
82 the provisions of this act, then only those actions which reduce  
83 the projected annual cost and/or the appropriation requirement  
84 will be processed by the State Personnel Board until such time as  
85 the requirements of this provision are met.

86       Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with  
87 the terms, conditions and procedures established by law.

88       No general funds authorized to be expended herein shall be  
89 used to replace federal funds and/or other special funds which are  
90 being used for salaries authorized under the provisions of this  
91 act and which are withdrawn and no longer available.

92       **SECTION 4.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
93 State Forestry Commission be allowed to escalate its budget in the



94 Capital Outlay: Equipment major object of expenditure, with funds  
95 generated from the Forest Acreage Tax, and with funds generated  
96 from the sale of old equipment and lease of tower sites an amount  
97 not to exceed Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000.00).  
98 It is further the intention of the Legislature that the State  
99 Forestry Commission be allowed to escalate its budget in the  
100 Subsidies, Loans and Grants major object of expenditure, with  
101 funds generated from the Severance Tax to fund the Forest Resource  
102 Development Program in an amount not to exceed Five Hundred  
103 Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00). The receipt of these funds is  
104 hereby authorized and approved, provided such receipts and  
105 expenditures are reported and otherwise accounted for in  
106 accordance with Section 27-103-101 et seq. and Section 27-104-1 et  
107 seq., Mississippi Code of 1972.

108       **SECTION 5.** In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance  
109 Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of  
110 the Legislature that the funds provided herein shall be utilized  
111 in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the  
112 intended mission of this agency. Based on the funding authorized,  
113 this agency shall make every effort to attain the targeted  
114 performance measures provided below:

115		FY03
116	<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
117	Fire Control	
118	Number of Fires per Year (Events)	4,027
119	Average Size of Fire (Acres)	11.95
120	Private Lands Management	
121	Land Reforested (Acres)	150,000
122	Landowners Assisted (Persons)	20,000
123	Public Lands Management	
124	Value of Timber Sold (Dollars)	30,000,000
125	Insect & Disease Control	
126	Acres Surveyed (Millions)	17,400,000



127 Forest Resource Development  
128 Acres Regenerated (Acres) 50,000  
129 Federal Excess Property  
130 Number of Vehicles Acquired (Vehicles) 115  
131 Regeneration  
132 Genetically Improved Seedlings (In Millions) 50,000,000

133 A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets  
134 set above have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the  
135 agency's budget request submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget  
136 Committee for Fiscal Year 2004.

137 **SECTION 6.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
138 State Forestry Commission be allowed to escalate part-time  
139 positions up to one hundred (100) and expend funds not to exceed  
140 Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) from any source of  
141 funds that become available to the commission. This escalation  
142 shall be in accordance with rules and regulations of the  
143 Department of Finance and Administration in a manner consistent  
144 with the escalation of federal funds. These positions may be used  
145 to protect life and property during extended periods of extreme  
146 wildfire occurrences of a minimum of fifty (50) fires per day.  
147 The escalation of positions and the expenditure of these funds  
148 shall be at the discretion of the State Forester, with written  
149 notification to the State Personnel Board and the State Fiscal  
150 Officer.

151 **SECTION 7.** It is the intention of the State Legislature that  
152 as soon as funds come available that the Forestry Commission  
153 Career Ladder be implemented.

154 **SECTION 8.** The Forestry Commission has the authority to  
155 purchase from the "General Services Administration" Fire Fighter  
156 Catalog.

157 **SECTION 9.** There is hereby created in the State Treasury a  
158 fund designated as the Volunteer Fire Department Equipment  
159 Conversion Revolving Fund to be used by the State Forestry



Commission to assist in the conversion of vehicles acquired by the State Forestry Commission through the Federal Excess Personal Property Program or by Volunteer Fire Departments through other means to adapt them for use in the suppression of wildland fires. This assistance shall be in the form of fabrication of water tanks or other accessories necessary for the operation of fire suppression units, installation of piping and valves, painting or other similar or associated component work necessary to place fire suppression equipment into service. It is not for general vehicle maintenance or repair.

The Volunteer Fire Department Equipment Conversion Revolving Fund shall be funded by monies received from charges for work and services performed for Volunteer Fire Departments by the State Forestry Commission. Monies collected from such charges shall be deposited into the Volunteer Fire Department Equipment Conversion Revolving Fund. The State Treasurer shall make disbursements therefrom for payment of materials, supplies and labor upon requisition of the Forestry Commission and upon the issuance of warrants therefor by the Department of Finance and Administration.

The amount of monies deposited into the Volunteer Fire Department Equipment Conversion Fund through this work shall not exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00). Funds in excess of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) shall be placed in the State Forestry Commission's regular appropriated special funds. Monies in this revolving fund are to be considered special funds and shall be carried forward from one fiscal year to the next.

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



192           **SECTION 11.**   This act shall take effect and be in force from  
193   and after July 1, 2002.

