

**Adopted  
COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED TO**

**House Bill No. 1628**

**BY: Committee**

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

5           **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
6 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State General  
7 Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the support and maintenance  
8 of the State Forestry Commission for the fiscal year beginning  
9 July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024.....\$ 15,460,487.00.

10           **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
11 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the special fund in  
12 the State Treasury to the credit of the State Forestry Commission  
13 which is comprised of special source funds collected by or  
14 otherwise available to the commission, for the support and



15 maintenance of the commission for the fiscal year beginning  
16 July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024.....\$ 11,776,802.00.

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

30 **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
31 this act, the following positions are authorized:

32 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

33 Permanent: 343

34 Time-Limited: 7

35 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's  
36 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal  
37 Services for Fiscal Year 2025 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2024 funds  
38 appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are  
39 added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2024 budget by the Mississippi



40 Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's  
41 personal services appropriation, which shall be published by the  
42 State Personnel Board. Additionally, the State Personnel Board  
43 shall determine and publish the projected annualized payroll costs  
44 based on current employees. It shall be the responsibility of the  
45 agency head to ensure that actual personnel expenditures for  
46 Fiscal Year 2024 do not exceed the data provided by the  
47 Legislative Budget Office. If the agency's Fiscal Year 2024  
48 projected cost exceeds the annualized costs, no salary actions  
49 shall be processed by the State Personnel Board with the exception  
50 of new hires that are determined to be essential for the agency.

51 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with  
52 the terms, conditions and procedures established by law or  
53 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State  
54 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written  
55 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The  
56 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written  
57 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions  
58 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the  
59 appropriated level.

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



64 None of the funds herein appropriated shall be used in  
65 violation of Internal Revenue Service's Publication 15-A relating  
66 to the reporting of income paid to contract employees, as  
67 interpreted by the Office of the State Auditor.

68 Funds have been appropriated herein for the purpose of  
69 funding Project SEC2 minimum salaries for all employees covered  
70 under the Colonel Guy Groff/Neville Kenning Variable Compensation  
71 Plan. It shall be the agency's responsibility to ensure that the  
72 funds are used to increase all employees' salaries up to the  
73 minimum level as determined by the State Personnel Board.

74 **SECTION 4.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
75 State Forestry Commission shall maintain complete accounting and  
76 personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds  
77 appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the  
78 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year  
79 2023. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the  
80 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2025 shall be submitted to  
81 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of  
82 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided  
83 during the Fiscal Year 2024 budget request process.

84 **SECTION 5.** In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance  
85 Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of  
86 the Legislature that the funds provided herein shall be utilized  
87 in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the  
88 intended mission of this agency. Based on the funding authorized,



89 this agency shall make every effort to attain the targeted  
90 performance measures provided below:

91 FY2024  
92 Performance Measures Target

93 Forest Protection & Information

94	Average Suppression Time (Hrs from	
95	Detection to Control)	1
96	Number of Acres Burned Under a	
97	Prescribed Burn Program	17,750
98	Percent of Fires Suppressed at 100 Acres	
99	or Less	95.00

100 Forest Management

101	Forest Resource Development Program	
102	Acres Regenerated or Improved	35,000
103	Acres Monitored for Insect, Storm or Disease	19,800,000
104	Re-Inventory 20% of State's Forest Lands	
105	(% of Regions)	20.00
106	Percent Increase of Re-Inventory of	
107	State Forest Land	20.00

108 A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets  
109 set above have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the  
110 agency's budget request submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget  
111 Committee for Fiscal Year 2025.

112 **SECTION 6.** There is created in the State Treasury a fund  
113 designated as the Volunteer Fire Department Equipment Conversion



114 Revolving Fund to be used by the State Forestry Commission to  
115 assist in the conversion of vehicles acquired by the State  
116 Forestry Commission through the Federal Excess Personal Property  
117 Program or by volunteer fire departments through other means to  
118 adapt them for use in the suppression of wildland fires. This  
119 assistance shall be in the form of fabrication of water tanks or  
120 other accessories necessary for the operation of fire suppression  
121 units, installation of piping and valves, painting or other  
122 similar or associated component work necessary to place fire  
123 suppression equipment into service. It is not for general vehicle  
124 maintenance or repair.

125         The Volunteer Fire Department Equipment Conversion Revolving  
126 Fund shall be funded by monies received from charges for work and  
127 services performed for volunteer fire departments by the State  
128 Forestry Commission. Monies collected from such charges shall be  
129 deposited into the Volunteer Fire Department Equipment Conversion  
130 Revolving Fund. The State Treasurer shall make disbursements  
131 therefrom for payment of materials, supplies and labor upon  
132 requisition of the Forestry Commission and upon the issuance of  
133 warrants therefor by the Department of Finance and Administration.

134         The amount of monies deposited into the Volunteer Fire  
135 Department Equipment Conversion Fund through this work shall not  
136 exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00). Funds in excess of  
137 Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) shall be placed in the State  
138 Forestry Commission's regular appropriated special funds. Monies



139 in this revolving fund are to be considered special funds and  
140 shall be carried forward from one fiscal year to the next.

141       **SECTION 7.** There is created in the State Treasury a fund  
142 designated as the Camden State Forest Revolving Fund to be used by  
143 the State Forestry Commission to direct forest management  
144 activities on the Camden State Forest in Madison County,  
145 Mississippi. The forest management activities will include, but  
146 not be limited to, maintenance of property, timber sale activities  
147 and regeneration work.

148       The Camden State Forest Revolving Fund shall be funded by  
149 monies received from timber sales, leases, and any other source.  
150 Monies collected from these income sources shall be deposited into  
151 the Camden State Forest Revolving Fund. The State Treasurer shall  
152 make disbursements therefrom for payments of materials, supplies  
153 and labor upon requisition of the State Forestry Commission and  
154 upon the issuance of warrants therefor by the Department of  
155 Finance and Administration.

156       It is the intention of the Legislature that any revolving  
157 funds in excess of the budgeted amount needed for the necessary  
158 operation and maintenance of all properties under the direct  
159 supervision and management of the State Forestry Commission shall  
160 remain in the Camden State Forest Revolving Fund for use in future  
161 years.

162       **SECTION 8.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, it is the  
163 intention of the Legislature that Two Hundred Thousand Dollars



164 (\$200,000.00) shall be transferred to the Department of  
165 Agriculture and Commerce for the Beaver Control or Eradication  
166 Program during the Fiscal Year 2024.

167 **SECTION 9.** Any funds in the Salary, Wages and Fringe  
168 Benefits major object of expenditure may be used to purchase  
169 accumulated compensatory time within the funds available.

170 **SECTION 10.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
171 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the  
172 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things  
173 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,  
174 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
175 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to  
176 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
177 made without competitive bids.

178 **SECTION 11.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
179 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with  
180 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency  
181 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their  
182 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally  
183 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for  
184 actions contrary to this provision.

185 **SECTION 12.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
186 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
187 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
188 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal





189 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
190 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

191 **SECTION 13.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
192 and after July 1, 2023, and shall stand repealed June 29, 2023.

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

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE SUPPORT AND  
2 MAINTENANCE OF THE STATE FORESTRY COMMISSION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR  
3 2024.

