

Chapter No. 47  
14/HR40/A451SG  
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# ***HOUSE BILL NO. 1482***

Originated in House



Clerk

HOUSE BILL NO. 1482

AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE STATE FORESTRY COMMISSION AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE MISSISSIPPI INSTITUTE FOR FOREST INVENTORY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2015.

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

**SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State General Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the support and maintenance of the State Forestry Commission for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014, and ending June 30, 2015 .....  
..... \$ 19,071,100.00.

**SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the special fund in the State Treasury to the credit of the State Forestry Commission which is comprised of special source funds collected by or otherwise available to the commission, for the support and maintenance of the commission for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014, and ending June 30, 2015 .....

..... \$ 11,064,092.00.

Of the funds specified in this section, Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) shall be deposited in a fund created in the State Treasury called the "Forest Improvement Revolving Fund." Money in this fund shall be used by the State Forestry Commission to assist in the reforestation and growth improvement of the forests, woodlands, and publicly owned lands of the state, including sixteenth section lands, Camp Shelby, Columbia Training School and colleges and universities.

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

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

AUTHORIZED POSITIONS:

Permanent:	Full Time .....	449
	Part Time .....	2
Time-Limited:	Full Time .....	6
	Part Time .....	0

With the funds herein appropriated, it is the intention of the Legislature that it shall be the agency's responsibility to make certain that funds required to be appropriated for "Personal Services" for Fiscal Year 2016 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2015

funds appropriated for that purpose, unless programs or positions are added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2015 budget by the Mississippi Legislature. Based on data provided by the Legislative Budget Office, the State Personnel Board shall determine and publish the projected annual cost to fully fund all appropriated positions in compliance with the provisions of this act. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to ensure that no single personnel action increases this projected annual cost and/or the Fiscal Year 2015 appropriations for "Personal Services" when annualized, with the exception of escalated funds. If, at the time the agency takes any action to change "Personal Services," the State Personnel Board determines that the agency has taken an action which would cause the agency to exceed this projected annual cost or the Fiscal Year 2015 "Personal Services" appropriated level, when annualized, then only those actions which reduce the projected annual cost and/or the appropriation requirement will be processed by the State Personnel Board until such time as the requirements of this provision are met.

Funds are provided herein for a One Thousand Dollar (\$1,000.00) salary increase for full-time employees, or pro-rated for part-time employees, which shall be awarded to each employee that has not received a salary increase since July 1, 2010, and that is making an annual salary of less than Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) as of June 30, 2014.

The State Personnel Board shall not approve or process personnel action for any employee unless the employee has not received a salary increase since July 1, 2010, and for such an employee the increased amount shall not exceed Five Percent (5%); however, the following conditions are to be exempted: the award of teacher salary increments; the advancement of a trainee/cadet to the next level of a bona fide career ladder; the award of an educational benchmark for the attainment of a Certified Public Accountant License or higher level professional certification; the immediate replacement of a departing employee with an employee from within state service at a salary level of the departing employee or the FY 2015 promotional formula, whichever is less; the emergency appointment of nurses, pharmacists or other health care and child protection professionals at a salary to be determined by the State Personnel Board or any other requested action of the agency that has been specifically authorized by the Legislature.

Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with the terms, conditions and procedures established by law or allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions

without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the appropriated level.

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

**SECTION 4.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the State Forestry Commission and the Mississippi Institute for Forest Inventory shall maintain complete accounting and personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds appropriated under this act and that such records shall be in the same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year 2014. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2016 shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided during the Fiscal Year 2015 budget request process.

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

FY2015

<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
Forest Protection & Information	
Number of Fires	1,194
Average Fire Size (Acres)	9.50
Total Acres Burned (Acres)	14,229.00
Forest Management	
Private Landowners Assists	11,944
Private Land Reforested (Acres)	30,330
MS Inst of Forest Inventory	
Re-inventory State Forest	
Lands (% of Regions)	20.00
Publishing of Re-inventoried	
Information (%)	100.00

A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets set above have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the agency's budget request submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee for Fiscal Year 2016.

**SECTION 6.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the State Forestry Commission be allowed to escalate its budget in the Capital Outlay: Equipment major object of expenditure, with funds generated from the Forest Acreage Tax, and with funds generated from the sale of old equipment and lease of tower sites an amount not to exceed Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000.00). It is further the intention of the Legislature that the State Forestry Commission be allowed to escalate its budget in the

Subsidies, Loans and Grants major object of expenditure, with funds generated from the Severance Tax to fund the Forest Resource Development Program in an amount not to exceed Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00). The receipt of these funds is hereby authorized and approved, provided such receipts and expenditures are reported and otherwise accounted for in accordance with Section 27-103-101 et seq. and Section 27-104-1 et seq., Mississippi Code of 1972.

**SECTION 7.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the State Forestry Commission be allowed to escalate part-time positions up to one hundred (100) and expend funds not to exceed Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) from any source of funds that become available to the commission. This escalation shall be in accordance with rules and regulations of the Department of Finance and Administration in a manner consistent with the escalation of federal funds. These positions may be used to protect life and property during extended periods of extreme wildfire occurrences of a minimum of fifty (50) fires per day. The escalation of positions and the expenditure of these funds shall be at the discretion of the State Forester, with written notification to the State Personnel Board and the State Fiscal Officer.

**SECTION 8.** There is created in the State Treasury a fund designated as the Volunteer Fire Department Equipment 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 9.** There is created in the State Treasury a fund designated as the Camden State Forest Revolving Fund to be used by the State Forestry Commission to direct forest management activities on the Camden State Forest in Madison County, Mississippi. The forest management activities will include, but not be limited to, maintenance of property, timber sale activities and regeneration work.

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

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

**SECTION 10.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, it is the intention of the Legislature that Two Hundred Thousand Dollars

(\$200,000.00) shall be transferred to the Department of Agriculture and Commerce for the Beaver Control or Eradication Program during the Fiscal Year 2015.

**SECTION 11.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the Mississippi Institute for Forest Inventory is authorized to accept, budget and expend funds, not to exceed One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00), from any source, and to escalate one full-time permanent position, in accordance with rules and regulations of the Department of Finance and Administration in a manner consistent with the escalation of federal funds.

**SECTION 12.** It is the intention of the Legislature that whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price, quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are made without competitive bids.

**SECTION 13.** Any person who was an employee of the Forestry Commission who was laid off during Fiscal Year 2006 shall be given first priority in any new employment by the commission.

**SECTION 14.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the Forestry Commission shall have the authority to escalate its budget and expend funds from any source, not to exceed One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000.00) for the purpose of

managing and operating the commission in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Department of Finance and Administration in a manner consistent with the escalation of federal funds.

**SECTION 15.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for actions contrary to this provision.

**SECTION 16.** 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.

**SECTION 17.** This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2014.

PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
March 31, 2014

  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PASSED BY THE SENATE  
March 31, 2014

  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR

  
GOVERNOR

4/15/14

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