

HB189 ENGROSSED



1 996IBP-2
2 By Representatives Lovvorn, Standridge, Crawford, Fincher,
3 DuBose, Yarbrough, Ingram, Bolton, Kirkland, Gidley, Woods,
4 Rehm, Shedd, Mooney, Oliver, Paschal, Shaw, Travis, Rigsby,
5 Lamb, Baker, Wood (R), Sells, Wilcox
6 RFD: Ways and Means General Fund
7 First Read: 22-Mar-23
8 2023 Regular Session



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A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to the Alabama Forestry Commission; to establish the Rural Logging Efficiency Act of 2023; to create the Logging Efficiency Grant Fund to be administered by the Alabama Forestry Commission; and to provide for the distribution of funding to the Alabama Forestry Commission to support rural economic development.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the Rural Logging Efficiency Act of 2023.

(b) The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(1) The forest product manufacturing sector is a large contributor to the state's economy.

(2) In order to have a successful forest product manufacturing sector, it is imperative that the supply chain for forest raw materials be as competitive and efficient as possible.

(3) Logging companies are a vital link of the forest supply chain system and it is critical for the state's economy



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29 that these companies have every opportunity to be successful.

30 (4) It is the intent of the Legislature to provide a
31 stable funding source for the following:

32 a. Maintaining, repairing, replacing, and constructing
33 public rural bridges that may not qualify for funding through
34 traditional funding formulas utilized by the state and
35 counties to distribute revenue generated by fuel taxes.

36 b. Researching and implementing technologies that
37 enhance forest product harvesting and transportation
38 efficiencies.

39 c. Providing grants to support logging workforce
40 development.

41 (c) As used in this section, the following words have
42 the following meanings:

43 (1) FOREST PRODUCTS. Any material harvested from a
44 forest or generated by the manufacture of a finished product
45 utilizing materials harvested from a forest, including, but
46 not limited to, logs, pulpwood, chips, poles, veneer, and
47 stumps.

48 (2) RURAL AREA. Any incorporated area within the state
49 with a population of 2,500 inhabitants or fewer according to
50 the most recent federal census or any unincorporated area
51 within the state.

52 (3) RURAL BRIDGE. A load restricted public bridge
53 located in a rural area and posted to limit commercial or
54 school bus traffic.

55 (d) The Alabama Forestry Commission shall do all of the
56 following:



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57 (1) Adopt rules to implement and administer this
58 section.

59 (2) Ensure that grants provided for the purposes
60 described in subsection (e) are provided in a manner that does
61 not discriminate based on gender, race, or disability status
62 of the applicant.

63 (3) Ensure that all grant applicants are residents of
64 the State of Alabama.

65 (4) Ensure that all revenues deposited in the Logging
66 Efficiency Grant Fund created under subsection (e) are used as
67 follows:

68 a. Five percent to be retained by the Alabama Forestry
69 Commission for administrative purposes.

70 b. Ten percent to fund grants that support logging
71 workforce development and advance research and implementation
72 of technologies that improve forest product harvesting and
73 transportation efficiencies.

74 c. Eighty-five percent to fund grants to county
75 commissions to maintain, repair, replace, and construct public
76 rural bridges. Grants will be prioritized based on the county
77 commission's application setting forth the amount of matching
78 contributions provided to the project and the rural economic
79 impact of the project, with emphasis placed on forest product
80 production.

81 (5) Create an advisory committee to assist with
82 prioritizing the project grant applications. The advisory
83 committee shall include representatives of county government
84 and the forest products industry.



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85 (6) Coordinate its appointments to the advisory
86 committee to assure that the committee membership is inclusive
87 and reflects the racial, gender, geographic urban, rural, and
88 economic diversity of the state.

89 (e) (1) There is created a fund in the State Treasury to
90 be known as the Logging Efficiency Grant Fund. The fund shall
91 consist of all of the following:

92 a. Revenue sources as directed by, and at the
93 discretion of, the Legislature.

94 b. All grants, gifts, bequests, or donations made to
95 the fund from any source whatsoever.

96 c. Appropriations as directed by, and at the discretion
97 of, the Legislature.

98 d. Any other lawful source.

99 (2) Monies in the fund shall be used and expended by
100 the Alabama Forestry Commission in accordance with subsection
101 (d).

102 (3) No monies shall be withdrawn or expended from the
103 fund for any purpose unless the monies have been appropriated
104 by the Legislature and allocated pursuant to this section. Any
105 monies appropriated shall be budgeted and allotted pursuant to
106 the Budget Management Act in accordance with Article 4,
107 commencing with Section 41-4-80 of Chapter 4 of Title 41, Code
108 of Alabama 1975, and only in the amounts provided by the
109 Legislature in the general appropriations act or other
110 appropriations act.

111 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the first
112 day of the third month following its passage and approval by

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113 the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.



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House of Representatives

117 Read for the first time and referred22-Mar-23
118 to the House of Representatives
119 committee on Ways and Means General
120 Fund
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122 Read for the second time and placed11-May-23
123 on the calendar:
124 0 amendments
125
126 Read for the third time and passed16-May-23
127 as amended
128 Yeas 103
129 Nays 0
130 Abstains 0

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John Treadwell
Clerk