

**SB76 ENGROSSED**



1 ZGY2KR-2  
2 By Senators Barfoot, Elliott, Roberts, Kelley, Sessions,  
3 Stutts, Scofield, Weaver, Allen, Butler, Jones, Hovey,  
4 Williams, Price, Chesteen, Melson, Singleton, Coleman,  
5 Shelnuttt  
6 RFD: Finance and Taxation General Fund  
7 First Read: 21-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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114  
115  
116 Senate

117 Read for the first time and referred .....21-Mar-23  
118 to the Senate committee on Finance  
119 and Taxation General Fund  
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121 Read for the second time and placed .....10-May-23  
122 on the calendar:  
123 0 amendments  
124  
125 Read for the third time and passed .....16-May-23  
126 as amended  
127 Yeas 34  
128 Nays 0  
129 Abstains 0  
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132 Patrick Harris,  
133 Secretary.  
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