

SB76 ENROLLED



1 ZGY2KR-3
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



SB76 Enrolled

1 Enrolled, An Act,

2

3

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

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

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

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

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

21 (3) Logging companies are a vital link of the forest
22 supply chain system and it is critical for the state's economy
23 that these companies have every opportunity to be successful.

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

26 a. Maintaining, repairing, replacing, and constructing
27 public rural bridges that may not qualify for funding through
28 traditional funding formulas utilized by the state and



SB76 Enrolled

29 counties to distribute revenue generated by fuel taxes.

30 b. Researching and implementing technologies that
31 enhance forest product harvesting and transportation
32 efficiencies.

33 c. Providing grants to support logging workforce
34 development.

35 (c) As used in this section, the following words have
36 the following meanings:

37 (1) FOREST PRODUCTS. Any material harvested from a
38 forest or generated by the manufacture of a finished product
39 utilizing materials harvested from a forest, including, but
40 not limited to, logs, pulpwood, chips, poles, veneer, and
41 stumps.

42 (2) RURAL AREA. Any incorporated area within the state
43 with a population of 2,500 inhabitants or fewer according to
44 the most recent federal census or any unincorporated area
45 within the state.

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

49 (d) The Alabama Forestry Commission shall do all of the
50 following:

51 (1) Adopt rules to implement and administer this
52 section.

53 (2) Ensure that grants provided for the purposes
54 described in subsection (e) are provided in a manner that does
55 not discriminate based on gender, race, or disability status
56 of the applicant.



SB76 Enrolled

57 (3) Ensure that all grant applicants are residents of
58 the State of Alabama.

59 (4) Ensure that all revenues deposited in the Logging
60 Efficiency Grant Fund created under subsection (e) are used as
61 follows:

62 a. Five percent to be retained by the Alabama Forestry
63 Commission for administrative purposes.

64 b. Ten percent to fund grants that support logging
65 workforce development and advance research and implementation
66 of technologies that improve forest product harvesting and
67 transportation efficiencies.

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

75 (5) Create an advisory committee to assist with
76 prioritizing the project grant applications. The advisory
77 committee shall include representatives of county government
78 and the forest products industry.

79 (6) Coordinate its appointments to the advisory
80 committee to assure that the committee membership is inclusive
81 and reflects the racial, gender, geographic, urban, rural and
82 economic diversity of the state.

83 (e) (1) There is created a fund in the State Treasury to
84 be known as the Logging Efficiency Grant Fund. The fund shall



SB76 Enrolled

85 consist of all of the following:

86 a. Revenue sources as directed by, and at the
87 discretion of, the Legislature.

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

90 c. Appropriations as directed by, and at the discretion
91 of, the Legislature.

92 d. Any other lawful source.

93 (2) Monies in the fund shall be used and expended by
94 the Alabama Forestry Commission in accordance with subsection
95 (d).

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

105 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the first
106 day of the third month following its passage and approval by
107 the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.



SB76 Enrolled

108
109
110
111
112
113
114
115
116
117
118
119
120
121
122
123
124
125
126
127
128
129
130
131
132
133
134
135
136

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SB76
Senate 16-May-23
I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and passed
the Senate, as amended.

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.

House of Representatives
Passed: 31-May-23

By: Senator Barfoot