



Mississippi Forestry Association

*The Voice of Forestry*

# Legislative Bulletin

Volume 2009 Number 3

February 6, 2009

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## MFA Member Question of the Week

**Q:** I have heard of Registered Foresters in Mississippi. What is a Registered Forester?

**A:** The Mississippi Board of Registration for Foresters was created in 1977 by the Mississippi Legislature. The Foresters Registration Law of 1977 (amended in 1989) defines the practice of forestry to include consultation, investigation, evaluation, valuation, planning, and silviculture and harvest recommendations. Any person offering forestry services to the public must be licensed.

By law, no person may refer to himself as a forester; nor may any person sell, advertise or otherwise promote his services as a professional forester in Mississippi, without being duly registered (licensed) by the Board of Registration for Foresters.

Foresters must have a Bachelor of Science or higher degree from an accredited forestry school, pass a Board-administered test and certify that they have no conflicts with the legal or ethical requirements of the Forester Registration Law.

## MFA's 2009 Legislative Priorities

MFA's Government Affairs Committee has recommended legislative priorities and positions to the MFA Executive Committee for review and approval. To give you an idea of the types of legislative issues that MFA is lobbying on your behalf, here are some current bills that are important to the forestry and the natural resources community.

*Note: Bills are active as of February 4, 2009 after the first committee action deadline. Bills will be added and deleted as necessary throughout the Legislative Session*

## House Bills

**HB15** Harvest permits; extend repealers on Department of Transportation's authority to issue to certain hauling vehicles.

01/06 (H) Referred To Transportation  
01/21 (H) Title Suff Do Pass Comm Sub

**HB 803** Eminent domain; restrict to direct public use

01/19 (H) Referred To Judiciary A  
01/27 (H) Title Suff Do Pass

**HB 1024** Sales tax; reduce rate on sales of certain farm implements and logging/pulpwood equipment and repair parts.

01/19 (H) Referred To Ways and Means

**HB 1132** Harvest permits; extend repealer on law authorizing and revise maximum weight limit and vehicles for which may be issued.

01/19 (H) Referred To Transportation  
01/28 (H) Title Suff Do Pass Comm Sub

**HB 1381** Scenic streams; designate a certain portion of the Escatawpa River

01/19 (H) Referred To Conservation and Water Resources  
01/29 (H) Title Suff Do Pass

## Senate Bills

**SB 2230** Eminent domain; restrict to direct public use.

01/06 (S) Referred To Judiciary, Division A  
01/29 (S) Title Suff Do Pass Comm Sub

**SB 2654** Harvest permits; extend repealers on Department of Transportation's authority to issue to certain vehicles.

01/15 (S) Referred To Highways and Transportation  
01/28 (S) Title Suff Do Pass

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To remain registered, a practicing forester must, on a continuing basis, fulfill education requirements to stay current with state-of-art forest management policies, procedures, and innovations. A forester's registration must be renewed every two years to maintain a legal license to practice forestry in Mississippi.

There are currently 1,201 Registered Foresters. Persons wishing to locate a Registered Forester may use the website's "Find a Forester" county map. The Board maintains an office at Mississippi State University. Phone 662.325.2772  
Web site  
[www.cfr.msstate.edu/borl](http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/borl)  
e-mail: [borl@cfr.msstate.edu](mailto:borl@cfr.msstate.edu)

## Contact MFA

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MFA's mission is leading diverse forestry groups to promote landowner rights, environmental stewardship, member prosperity, and community understanding.

## Senate Bills, *continued*

**SB 2659** State-funded buildings; energy performance regulations shall apply to buildings constructed with Community Development Block Grant funds.

01/15 (S) Referred To Public Property  
01/26 (S) Title Suff Do Pass

**SB 2947** Sixteenth section forest lands; authorize management services by private foresters subject to approval by the Secretary of State and Forestry Commission

01/19 (S) Referred To Education  
02/03 (S) Title Suff Do Pass Comm Sub

## MFA is actively working for you in the Mississippi Legislature.

### We are committed to:

1. Advocating actively for investments in our state's highways and bridges to address current competitive disadvantages when compared to surrounding states. Our transportation infrastructure is critical to keeping existing forest products mills and markets competitive and open to forest landowners.
2. Partnering with the Mississippi Loggers Association to renew the Harvest Permit for log trucks and possibly increasing the weight tolerance for log trucks to 10% over the legal limit, or 88,000 pounds.
3. Remaining vigilant to make sure that Mississippi's eminent domain law is not weakened.
4. Minimizing the effect of any changes in ad valorem land taxes on landowners, especially if the homestead exemption is increased.
5. Engaging all the County Forestry Associations (CFAs) and CFA members in MFA's government relations and advocacy activities through our expanding network of CFA Government Affairs Liaisons.

## Want to know more?

MFA Government Affairs

<http://www.msforestry.net/governmentaffairs.php>

MFA Online, [www.msforestry.net](http://www.msforestry.net)

MS State Legislature <http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/>

Grow the Vote – your source of information for the forest products industry, [www.GrowTheVote.org](http://www.GrowTheVote.org)