



Mississippi Forestry Association

LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

The Voice of Forestry

Volume 2008, Number 1

January 11, 2008

In This Issue

- 2008 forestry issues outlook
- House Speaker retains position
- Hewes #2 in senate
- MS State Senate webcast

Links:

MFA Home

www.msforestry.net

MS State Legislature

<http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/>

New Feature!

MFA Member Question of the Week

MFA invites all MFA and CFA members to submit their government affairs questions to Bruce Alt at balt@msforestry.net. Each week, one question will be answered in the *Legislative Bulletin*.

Q: When U.S. Senator Trent Lott resigned from the Senate, Governor Haley Barbour appointed a temporary replacement until a special election could be held. However, when Congressman Roger Wicker was appointed to Lott's Senate seat, creating a vacancy in Mississippi's 1st congressional district, why couldn't Gov. Barbour appoint a replacement Congressman?

A: By law, U.S. Senate and House vacancies are covered under two different state statutes. Gov. Barbour has 60 days to call a special election for the Congressional seat formerly held by Rep. Roger Wicker, and the election has to be 60 days from that date, so there's a 120-day maximum period.

MFA's 2008 Legislative Bulletin

Welcome to MFA's 2008 *Legislative Bulletin*, published on a regular basis for MFA and our County Forestry Association members statewide and distributed only by email. This newsletter is designed to help keep our valued members well informed about how government affairs affect important forestry issues.

Here is a quick reader's guide that will help you get the most value from your MFA *Legislative Bulletin*: The column to the left highlights three features:

In This Issue: a quick reference to the contents of the newsletter

Links: provided to give the reader an option to receive more detailed information on related issues. Simply click on the link.

Contact Us: click here to email or call MFA's government affairs staff with questions or suggestions. MFA invites you to give us your feedback on any issues or legislative bills that concern you.

MFA's 2008 Legislative Outlook

A look into the MFA legislative crystal ball reveals issues important to forestry in 2008

1. The possibility of working in a coalition to try to increase the penalties and law enforcement efforts regarding trespassing on private land.
2. Working to pass our forestry business coalition's "green building" energy saving, pro - Green Globes legislation.
3. Joining a pro - private property rights coalition to make sure that Mississippi's eminent domain law is not weakened if threatening legislation is introduced.
4. Being "on guard" and very vigilant in all matters regarding ad valorem land taxes, especially if the Governor calls for a comprehensive review of the state's tax code.
5. Making a special effort in the first year of the new four year term to build working relationships with all freshmen Reps. and Senators.
6. Engaging all the CFAs and CFA members in MFA's government relations issues and activities.

MFA's Government Affairs Committee will meet in late February to review all forestry-related legislation that has been introduced in the 2008 Regular Session. The Committee's recommendations will be reviewed and approved by both the MFA Executive Committee and Board of Directors. Once approved, these positions guide MFA's advocacy efforts in the Legislature.

Mr. Speaker: McCoy wins

House Speaker Billy McCoy has retained his position as leader of the House of Representatives, but the difficult part will be bringing the body together to govern.

Rep. McCoy, a Democrat from Rienzi, defeated Rep. Jeff Smith, D-Columbus,
