



Mississippi Forestry Association

# Legislative Bulletin

*The Voice of Forestry*

Volume 2009 Number 2

January 23, 2009

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## MFA Member Question of the Week

**Q:** I have heard that some log trucks have a special permit called a Harvest Permit. What is a Harvest Permit and what does it allow?

**A:** Mississippi has a Harvest Permit for several different types of commodities, including logs and pulpwood. The permit costs \$25 per year per truck. The money is distributed equally to the counties for use in each county's road and bridge fund by the board of supervisors.

Harvest Permits are available for vehicles hauling sand, gravel, wood chips, wood shavings, sawdust, fill dirt, agricultural products or unprocessed forestry products from the point of loading to the point of unloading. They are not required, but can be purchased voluntarily. So why buy a harvest permit? Mississippi law allows a gross vehicle weight (GVW) of 80,000 pounds on state highways.

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## MFA's 2009 Legislative Priorities

**MFA's Government Affairs Committee will recommend legislative priorities and positions to the MFA Executive Committee. Here are some issues important to the forestry and natural resources community in 2009:**

1. Advocating actively for investments in our state's highways and bridges to lower raw material transportation costs and keep existing forest products mills and markets competitive and open to forest landowners.
2. Partnering with the Mississippi Loggers Association to renew the Harvest Permit and possibly increase the weight tolerance for log trucks.
3. Working with our private property rights coalition to further strengthen the law regarding trespassing on private land.
4. Remain vigilant to make sure that Mississippi's eminent domain law is not weakened if threatening legislation is introduced.
5. Being "on guard" in all matters regarding ad valorem land taxes, especially if the homestead exemption is increased.
6. Continuing to build working relationships with all Representatives and Senators.
7. Engaging all the CFAs and CFA members in MFA's government relations issues and activities through our expanding network of CFA Government Affairs Liaisons.

MFA's Government Affairs Committee will meet on January 27 to review all forestry-related legislation that has been introduced in the 2009 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 will guide MFA's advocacy efforts in the Legislature.



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The Harvest Permit provides for a weight tolerance of 5% above the legal limit or a total of 84,000 pounds. In addition, the board of supervisors of any county may designate the routes for vehicles with harvest permits. Permits do not apply to federal interstate highways where the legal weight limit is 80,000 pounds.

In the current legislative session, House Bill 15 will allow the Harvest Permit to be extended past an automatic repeal date of July 1, 2009.

To view HB 15, go to <http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/documents/2009/html/HB/0001-0099/HB0015CS.htm>

For more information, refer to Section 27-19-81 and Section 63-5-33, Mississippi Code of 1972

## Links: 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

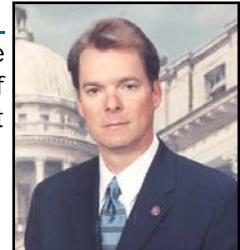
[www.GrowTheVote.org](http://www.GrowTheVote.org)

## Meet Your Senate Leaders



**President of the Senate Lt. Governor Phil Bryant (R)** *at left*, was first appointed State Auditor by former Governor Kirk Fordice in 1996, won re-election in 1999, and ran without opposition in 2003. Bryant was elected Mississippi's Lt. Governor in 2007. Bryant is a native of Jackson and a graduate of USM and Mississippi College.

**President Pro Tempore Billy Hewes III (R)** *at right*, has been in the legislature since 1992, and is currently the chair of the Rules Committee. Hewes is a resident of Gulfport and a graduate of USM.



### Senate Forestry Committee Chairman

**Perry Lee (R)** *at left*, retired from the Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service as a County Agent and began his legislative career in 2004. Lee also serves as the vice-chair for the Agriculture Committee. Lee lives in Mendenhall and is a graduate of LSU and MSU.

**Senate Forestry Committee Vice-Chair Vincent Davis (D)** *at right*, is serving his second year in the Senate. An attorney, Davis lives in Fayette and is a graduate of Alcorn State University.



Members of the Senate Forestry Committee  
Sens. Nickey Browning, Tommy Dickerson, Joey Fillingane, Cindy Hyde-Smith, David Jordan, Walter Michel and Eric Powell.

## Learn more about your State Senator

[http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/members/ss\\_membs.xml](http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/members/ss_membs.xml)

## Learn more about your State Representative

[http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/members/hr\\_membs.xml](http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/members/hr_membs.xml)



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## Contact MFA

[E-Mail MFA Government Affairs](#)

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

## Meet your House of Representatives Leaders

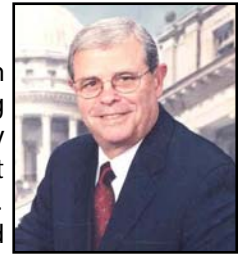


### Speaker of the House

**[William J. McCoy](#)** (D) *at left*, has been in the Miss. legislature since 1980. He has served as Speaker of the House since 2004 and is the vice-chair of the Legislative Budget Committee. McCoy is a resident of Rienzi, and a graduate of NEJC and MSU.

### Speaker Pro Tempore

**[J. P. Compretta](#)** (D) *at right*, served from 1976-1984, returning in 1988 and serving to the present time. Compretta currently serves as the Chair of the Management Committee. He is a resident of Bay St. Louis and a graduate of PRJC, USM and Mississippi College School of Law.



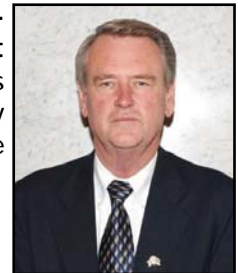
### House Forestry Committee Chairman

**[Gregory Holloway](#)** (D) *at left*, was elected to the legislature in 2000. He is a resident of Hazlehurst and a graduate of Alcorn State University and Jackson State University.



### House Forestry Vice-Chairman

**[Bill Pigott](#)** (R) *at right*, is serving his second year in the House. He is a dairy farmer from Tylertown. Pigott is a graduate of PRCC and MSU.



### [Members of the House Forestry Committee](#)

Reps. Charles Jim Beckett, Donnie Bell, Sidney Bondurant, Steven A. Horne, Bennett Malone, America Chuck Middleton, Ken Morgan, Bobby Shows and Joseph L. Warren.

## Contact Your Legislators

**Telephone:** 601.359.3770 for House and Senate Members during the session. If they are not in their offices, the Capitol operator will deliver a message.

**Email:** Every legislator has a laptop computer, but many Representatives and Senators prefer constituent communications by telephone, fax, or letter. Check first with your legislator to determine if they accept email messages.

**Fax:** Send personally addressed to the House Docket Room at 601.359.3728; the Senate at 601.359.3935

**Letters:** Mail to: The Honorable (Representative or Senator's name), State Capitol, P.O. Box 1018, Jackson, MS 39215-1018