- 1 HB313
- 2 183630-5
- 3 By Representatives Beech, Mooney, Hanes, Ainsworth, Holmes
- 4 (M), Warren, Drummond, Forte, Clarke, Scott, Howard, Coleman,
- 5 Jackson, Ellis, Wingo, Fincher, Fridy, Ledbetter, Butler and
- 6 Weaver
- 7 RFD: Agriculture and Forestry
- 8 First Read: 23-FEB-17

1	
2	ENROLLED, An Act,
3	To amend Sections 9-13-80, 9-13-81, 9-13-82,
4	9-13-84, 9-13-86, 9-13-88, 9-13-93, 9-13-104, and 9-13-108,
5	Code of Alabama 1975, relating to forest products privilege
6	and severance taxes; to define terms, provide alternative tax
7	rates for certain types of timber, and exclude from the tax,
8	wood residue used in conjunction with a forest products
9	manufacturing process; and to repeal Section 9-13-85, Code of
10	Alabama 1975, relating to the allocation of funds.
11	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:
12	Section 1. Sections 9-13-80, 9-13-81, 9-13-82,
13	9-13-84, 9-13-86, 9-13-88, 9-13-93, 9-13-104, and 9-13-108 of
14	the Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:
15	"§9-13-80.
16	"The following words, terms, and phrases, when used
17	in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in
18	this section, except where the context clearly indicates a
19	different meaning:
20	" $\underline{(1)}$ $\underline{(7)}$ COMMISSIONER. The Commissioner of Revenue of
21	the State of Alabama.
22	" (2) (9) CONCENTRATION YARD. A place where $\frac{1}{2}$
23	logs, pulpwood, or inwoods pulpwood chips severed in Alabama,
24	are brought or received within the State of Alabama in a green

or rough form or condition for manufacturing or for processing

1	or	for	resale	to	processors	or	manufacturers	or	for	shipment
2	out	of	state.							

3 "(3)(2) DEPARTMENT. The Department of Revenue of the State of Alabama.

"(4)(5) FOREST PRODUCTS. Logs, timber, pulpwood, chemical wood, bolts, crossties and switch ties, mine ties, coal mine props, ore mine props, poles, piles pilings, inwoods pulpwood chips, turpentine (crude gum) and stumpwood (tarwood).

"(5) (0) MANUFACTURER. As applied to forest products logs suitable for manufacture into lumber, plywood, veneer, or other solid wood product, the person who operates the sawmill or plant in which such the products are so manufactured into lumber; as applied to pulpwood, chemical wood and bolts, the person who operates the paper or pulp mill, chemical plant oriented strand board mill, pellet mill, or other plant in which such forest the products are processed manufactured; as applied to crossties, switch ties, mine ties, props, poles and piles pilings, the person who purchases from the producer; as applied to turpentine, the person who processes or cooks the crude gum; as applied to stumpwood, the person who operates the plant or retort in which such the product is processed utilized.

"(6)(1) PERSON. Such term includes any Any individual, firm, copartnership, association, corporation,

receiver, trustee, or any other group or combination acting as

2	a unit.
3	"(7) PROCESSOR. A chip mill or other facility that
4	receives forest products from a producer and further processes
5	those forest products before delivery to a manufacturer.
6	"(8)(4) PRODUCER. Any person engaging or continuing
7	to engage in this state in the business of severing timber or
8	any other forest products from the soil, whether as owner,
9	lessee, concessionaire, or contractor. Such definition The
10	term shall also include any person who assembles or causes to
11	be assembled any forest product for shipment out of the State
12	of Alabama in an unmanufactured condition.
13	" (9) (6) SEVER. To fell, cut, or otherwise separate
14	from the soil; provided, that for. For the purpose of this
15	article, any person who is the owner or lessee of timber and
16	is also the processor thereof or a manufacturer of products

" $\underline{(10)}$ TAXPAYER. Any person liable for taxes under this article.

derived therefrom shall be deemed the person producer engaged

in severing such timber from the soil, notwithstanding the

fact that the severance is made by an independent contractor

"§9-13-81.

or otherwise.

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"To provide further for conservation of the natural resources of the state by protection of the forest products

1	<pre>state's forests and development of the forestry program, there</pre>
2	is hereby levied and shall be collected as provided in this
3	article a privilege tax on account of the business activities
4	upon every person engaging who owns timber prior to severance
5	and engages or continuing continues to engage in the state in
6	the business of severing timber or any other forest products
7	from the soil for sale, profit_ or commercial use whether as
8	owner, lessee, concessionaire, or contractor. The privilege
9	tax imposed by this article is in addition to other taxes now
10	levied and shall be known as the forest products severance
11	tax. Said The tax, together with interest and penalties
12	imposed by this article, shall be a lien upon the forest
13	products so severed and upon the product or products
14	manufactured therefrom until the tax imposed by this article
15	with respect to such forest products shall have been paid or
16	until such forest products or the products manufactured
17	therefrom shall have been sold by the manufacturer thereof,
18	but the lien of such tax shall not be enforceable against the
19	bona fide purchaser from the manufacturer of any such forest
20	products or of the products manufactured therefrom.

21 **"**§9-13-82.

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- "(a) The measure of the <u>forest products severance</u> tax is at the following rates:
- "(1) On pine lumber \$0.50, per 1,000 feet board

 measure lumber tally. Where the timber is sold as logs and is

1 converted into lumber logs severed in Alabama and delivered to a manufacturer, processor, or concentration yard in Alabama, the rate shall be \$0.75 per 1,000 feet log scale (Doyle rule), except that logs under eight inches in diameter inside the bark at the small end shall be scaled as containing one foot log scale for each foot of length, or, at the election of the taxpayer, the rate shall be \$0.10 per ton (2,000 pounds). On pine logs severed in Alabama for transport out of the state, the rate shall be \$0.10 per ton (2,000 pounds).

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"(2) On hardwood, cypress, and all other species of logs severed in Alabama and delivered to a manufacturer, processor, or concentration yard lumber, \$0.30, per 1,000 feet board measure lumber tally. Where the timber is sold as logs and is not converted into lumber in Alabama, the rate shall be \$0.50, per 1,000 feet log scale (Doyle rule), except that logs under eight inches in diameter inside the bark at the small end shall be scaled as containing one foot log scale for each foot of length, or, at the election of the taxpayer, the rate shall be \$0.065 per ton (2,000 pounds). On all other species of logs severed in Alabama for transport out of the state, the rate shall be \$0.065 per ton (2,000 pounds).

"(3) On pulpwood, chemical wood, and bolts, \$0.25, per standard cord of 128 cubic feet, or, at the election of the taxpayer, \$0.10 per ton (2,000 pounds) on pulpwood severed

1	in Alabama and delivered to the manufacturer, concentration
2	yard, or processor. On pulpwood transported out of the state,
3	\$0.10 per ton (2,000 pounds) for pulpwood severed in Alabama.
4	" (4) On crossties, \$0.015 per piece, or, at the
5	election of the taxpayer, \$0.15 per ton (2,000 pounds), and on
6	switch ties, \$0.025 per piece, or, at the election of the
7	taxpayer, \$0.17 per ton (2,000 pounds).
8	"(5) On mine ties and coal mine props, \$0.125 per
9	100 pieces, or, at the election of the taxpayer, \$0.15 per ton
10	(2,000 pounds).
11	"(6) On pine ore mine props, \$0.75 per 1,000 feet
12	log scale (Doyle rule) and on hardwood ore mine props, \$0.50
13	per 1,000 feet log scale (Doyle rule), except that props under
14	eight inches in diameter at the small end shall be scaled as
15	containing one foot log scale for each foot of length, or, at
16	the election of the taxpayer, \$3.125 per 1,000 lineal feet,
17	or, \$0.15 per ton (2,000 pounds), regardless of species.
18	"(4)(7) On pilings and poles, \$1.875 per
19	1,000 board feet (Doyle scale), or, at the election of the
20	taxpayer, \$0.205 per ton (2,000 pounds) on pilings and poles
21	severed in Alabama and delivered to a manufacturer or
22	concentration yard. On pilings and poles severed in Alabama
23	and transported out of the state, \$0.205 per ton (2,000
24	pounds).

1	" (8)	On	turpentine	(crude	gum),	\$0.15	per	barrel	of
2	400 pounds.								

"(5)(9) On stumpwood (tarwood), \$0.125 per ton

(2,000 pounds) on stumpwood severed in Alabama and delivered

to a manufacturer. On stumpwood severed in Alabama and

transported out of the state, \$0.125 per ton (2,000 pounds).

"(6)(10) On inwoods pulpwood chips, \$0.25 per 190 cubic feet, or, at the election of the taxpayer, \$0.10 per ton (2,000 pounds) on chips produced in the woods from pulpwood severed in Alabama and delivered to the manufacturer or concentration yard. On inwoods pulpwood chips produced from pulpwood severed in Alabama and transported out of the state, \$0.10 per ton (2,000 pounds).

"(b) There is also levied a privilege tax against the processor of the forest products or the manufacturer using the forest products in an amount equal to 50 percent of the tax on the severer as set out above. The privilege tax shall be collected in the same manner as the forest products severance tax on the severer is collected and shall be known as the forest products manufacturers tax. This tax is levied not only upon processors or on manufacturers located only within this state but also upon out of state processors or manufacturers who obtain the timber within this state and ship it outside the state for completion of the manufacturing process. It is the legislative intent that this privilege tax

is not to be levied in any manner upon the person owning the land from which the forest products are severed nor upon the person actually cutting the forest products producer but it is levied upon the processor processing the forest products or manufacturer using that uses the forest products in the manufacturing process.

"(c) Round wood pulpwood Pulpwood, logs, or portions
thereof on which the forest products severance tax has been
paid shall not be subject to an additional forest products
severance tax when converted into pulpwood chips, but the. The
additional forest products manufacturers tax levied by
subsection (b) of this section shall be paid by the person,
firm, or corporation manufacturer utilizing the pulpwood chips
in a manufacturing process.

A manufacturer utilizing logs in a manufacturing process that also produces residual pulpwood chips from those logs shall not be liable for the additional forest products manufacturers tax levied by subsection (b) on that portion of the log that is converted into residual pulpwood chips. The additional forest products manufacturers tax levied by subsection (b) attributable to those residual pulpwood chips shall be paid by the manufacturer utilizing the residual pulpwood chips in a manufacturing process.

"(d) A manufacturer may establish entitlement to the exemption from forest products severance tax provided by

1	subsection (c) by obtaining a certificate from the seller
2	providing that the seller is a manufacturer, concentration
3	yard, or processor that is registered with the department to
4	remit forest products severance taxes, and any manufacturer
5	who obtains a certificate shall not be held liable for any
6	forest products severance tax on the pulpwood chips or
7	residual nulnwood chins nurchased from the seller

"(e) It is the intent of the Legislature to
encourage the use of forest based renewable energy. Fuel chips
produced in the woods at the site of severance are not subject
to the taxes set forth in this article. For purposes of this
section, fuel chips include woodchips that are produced from
tree tops and limbs, logging slash, down timber material, or
standing live or dead trees which do not meet commercial
standards because of size, species, merchantable volume, or
economic selection criteria, and are used as a form of energy
in conjunction with a manufacturing process. Fuel chips do not
include similar materials utilized as feedstock in a
manufacturing process. Trees that are grown specifically as an
energy crop do not qualify for the exemption set forth in this
subsection.

"\$9-13-84.

"(a) The taxes imposed by this article, and any other taxes imposed on the severance of forest products, shall be due and payable quarterly to the State Department of

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Revenue department and shall, when collected, shall be paid by such the department into the State Treasury. When so paid into the State Treasury, all such taxes shall be credited by the Treasurer to a special fund which is hereby created and which shall be known as the Special State Forestry Fund of the State of Alabama, which fund shall be disbursed under the supervision of the State Forester, subject to the restrictions embodied in this article, for the purpose of carrying out the statewide forestry program as provided by law and for no other or different purposes. Not less than 85 percent of the taxes collected under and by virtue of this article shall be expended for forest protection. No portion of such the fund shall revert to the General Fund of the state at the end of any fiscal year, and any surplus shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year and be disbursed as exigencies of the statewide forestry program may require.

"(b) There is hereby continuously appropriated the receipts from the taxes levied in this article to the State Forestry Commission for the use of the State Forestry Commission. Such The amount of money as shall be appropriated for each fiscal year by the Legislature to the Department of Revenue department with which to pay the salaries, the cost of operation, and the management of the said department shall be deducted, as a first charge thereon, from the taxes collected under and pursuant to said this article; provided, however,

that the. The expenditure of said the sum so appropriated shall be budgeted and allotted pursuant to Article 4. commencing with Section 41-4-80, of Chapter 4, Title 41 and limited to the amount appropriated to defray the expenses of operating said the department for each fiscal year; provided further, however, that for the fiscal years ending September 30, 1989, and September 30, 1990, the portion of the receipts allocated to the Forestry Commission is hereby appropriated for use in their fire control program, or two percent of the receipts, whichever is less.

"\$9-13-86.

"Every manufacturer of forest products shall and processor, within 30 days after the expiration of each quarter annual period expiring, respectively, shall on the last day of March, June, September, and December of each year, file with the Department of Revenue of the State of Alabama department a statement under oath, on forms prescribed by the said Department of Revenue department, showing the kinds of forest products and the gross quantity of each manufactured during the preceding quarter annual period by such the manufacturer of forest products or processor, showing the county or counties in which such products were severed from the soil and showing the gross quantity, if any, of such forest products severed from soil outside the State of Alabama and such other reasonable and necessary information pertaining thereto as the

Department of Revenue department may require for the proper enforcement of the provisions of this article. At the time of rendering such quarter annual reports, the manufacturer of forest products or processor shall pay to the Department of Revenue department the taxes imposed by this article with respect to all forest products severed from the soil in the State of Alabama and embraced in such the report; provided, that in. In the case that any lumber is logs, pulpwood, or inwoods pulpwood chips are sold or delivered to a concentration yard as is defined in this article, then the taxes provided for in this article shall be reported and paid by the owner or owners of such the concentration yard to the state instead of the manufacturer, but it shall be the duty of the owner or owners of any such concentration yard to collect the tax in all cases from the seller department.

"It shall be unlawful for the owner or owners of any such concentration yard to fail or refuse to collect the tax from the seller as aforesaid. It shall also be unlawful to refund or offer to refund all or any part of the tax collected by the owner of the concentration yard from a seller or to absorb or advertise directly or indirectly that the concentration yard will absorb or refund to the seller all or part of said tax. Any persons, firms, associations, corporations or copartnerships violating any of the provisions of this section or this article in said respect shall be

guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$100.00, or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than six months or by both such fine and imprisonment, and each act in violation of the provisions of this article shall constitute a separate offense.

"§9-13-88.

"It shall be the duty of every manufacturer of forest products and processor in this state and of every producer who shall ship forest products out of the State of Alabama in an unmanufactured condition and of every concentration yard as is defined in this article where any lumber is logs, pulpwood, or inwoods pulpwood chips are sold or delivered to it to keep and preserve suitable records with the items separated into the various items on which privilege taxes are levied in this article, and such other books or accounts as may be necessary to determine the amount of taxes for which he or she is liable under the provisions of this article. Said The books and records shall be kept and preserved for a period of three years, and all such records shall be open for examination at any time by the department or its duly authorized agent.

"§9-13-93.

"The taxes provided in this article shall become delinquent after the date fixed for the filing of the quarter

annual report to be filed in the office of with the Department of Revenue department.

3 "\$9-13-104.

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"When requested by the commissioner department, all transporters of forest products out of, within or across the State of Alabama shall be required to furnish said commissioner the department, under oath and upon forms prescribed by him the department, any and all information relative to the transportation of such forest products, and such the reports shall contain, in addition to other required information, the name of the shipper, the date of shipment, the quantity and type or character of such the forest products, stated in units or measurements applicable to such the forest products, the point of receipt or shipment, and the point of destination; provided, that in . In the case of common carriers using bills of lading or way bills prescribed or approved by the interstate commerce commission, such the common carriers shall only be required to keep the usual records at the office or offices in this state where such the records are usually kept.

"\$9-13-108.

"Any and all taxes upon the excise or privilege of severing, processing, or manufacturing of forest products shall inure to the State of Alabama and shall be exercised only in a uniform, statewide tax. No tax shall be levied by

local law or by any political subdivision of the state,

including counties, cities, special taxing authorities, or

other taxing instrumentalities, upon the excise or privilege

of severing, processing or manufacturing of forest products in

Alabama."

Section 2. The amendments to Section 9-13-82, Code of Alabama 1975, by this act shall apply retroactively to all open tax periods and all periods for which a preliminary or final assessment of tax could be or was entered pursuant to Section 40-2A-7, Code of Alabama 1975, or any successor general or local law. No refunds shall be due or issued pursuant to this act with respect to those periods prior to the effective date of this act.

- (a) The Legislature finds and declares that the intent of this amendatory act is to simplify and clarify existing language used to calculate and collect forest product severance taxes and forest product manufacturing taxes and to ensure that these taxes are levied and paid only once. In furtherance of that intent, the Legislature finds that this amendatory act clarifies all of the following:
- (1) Before the effective date of this amendatory act, if a manufacturer paid forest products severance tax utilizing a formula to convert from the weight of delivered logs to an estimate of volume based on either board measure lumber tally or log scale (Doyle Rule) for the purposes of

L	determining the amount of forest products severance tax to be
2	paid, then no additional forest products severance tax shall
3	be due on the products produced from that log including the
1	parts of the logs that are converted to residual pulpwood
5	chips.

- (2) Before the effective date of this amendatory act, if any manufacturer collected and paid forest products severance tax based on the weight of delivered logs, no additional forest products severance tax shall be due on the products produced from that log including the parts of the logs that are converted to residual pulpwood chips.
- (3) Before the effective date of this amendatory act, if the forest products severance tax was paid on either pulpwood chips or the logs used to produce pulpwood chips, no additional forest products severance tax shall be due by the manufacturer purchasing the pulpwood chips for use in a manufacturing process.
- (b) The clarifications provided in subsection (a) shall apply to all open tax periods and all periods for which a preliminary or final assessment of tax could be or was entered pursuant to Section 40-2A-7, Code of Alabama 1975, or any successor general or local law, before the effective date of this amendatory act.
- (c) No refunds shall be due or issued pursuant to the clarifications provided in subsection (a) with respect to

1	those	tax	periods	occurring	before	the	effective	date	of	this
2	amenda	itory	act.							

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Section 3. It is the intent of the Legislature that the forest products severance tax prescribed in subsections (a) and (b) of Section 9-13-82, Code of Alabama 1975, beginning on the effective date of this act, shall initially generate revenues not less than the revenues generated by the tax prior to the effective date of this act. In order to ensure that the revenues previously generated are not decreased, the department shall determine the total forest products severance tax revenue generated from all severance taxpayers from this act for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018. The department, no later than December 1, 2018, or as soon thereafter as practical, shall determine the amount collected from all severance taxpayers for the fiscal year ending September 2018. If the forest products severance tax generated from all severance taxpayers in the fiscal year ending 2018 are less than the forest products severance taxes generated from all severance taxpayers in the fiscal year ending in 2017, on January 1, 2019, or as soon thereafter as practical, the department shall notify all severance taxpayers of the rate adjustment needed to maintain collections at the level received and collected by all severance taxpayers prior to the effective date of this act. The rate adjustment shall be effective no earlier than the quarter beginning April 1,

1	2019. The rate adjustment provided for in this section shall
2	be a one-time adjustment to each of the tax rates set forth in
3	Section 9-13-82, Code of Alabama 1975, and no further
4	adjustments shall be made pursuant to this act.
5	Section 4. All laws or parts of laws which conflict
6	with this act are repealed. Section 9-13-85, Code of Alabama
7	1975, relating to the allocation of funds, is specifically
8	repealed.
9	Section 5. This act shall become effective on the
10	first day of the third month July 1, 2017, following its
11	passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise
12	becoming law.

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4		Speaker of the House of Rep	resentatives
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6	I	President and Presiding Offic	cer of the Senate
7		House of Representativ	<i>r</i> es
8 9		nereby certify that the withi	
9 10	and was passe	ed by the House 06-APR-17, as	s amended.
11		Jeff Woodar	rd
12		Clerk	
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15	Senate	02-MAY-17	Amended and Passed
16	House	04-MAY-17	Concurred in Sen- ate Amendment