

HB267 ENGROSSED



1 HB267
2 YMVPEN6-2
3 By Representative Sells
4 RFD: Agriculture and Forestry
5 First Read: 15-Jan-26



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A BILL

TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

9 Relating to the State Forestry Commission; to amend
10 Sections 9-3-5, 9-3-7, 9-13-3, 9-13-10, 9-13-11, 9-13-12,
11 9-13-140, 9-13-141, 9-13-142, 9-13-221, and 9-13-225, Code of
12 Alabama 1975, and to add Sections 9-3-5.1 and 9-13-11.1 to the
13 Code of Alabama 1975; to authorize the State Forester to earn
14 sick and annual leave and receive reimbursement from travel;
15 to remove the ability of the commission to appoint forest law
16 enforcement officers; to refine the procedure for obtaining a
17 burn permit; to provide penalties for conducting a prescribed
18 burn without a permit; to provide penalties for violations of
19 fire prevention measures in drought conditions; to require
20 seized vehicles and equipment to be delivered to the State
21 Forester or his or her designee; and to repeal Sections
22 9-13-5, 9-13-6, 9-13-7, 9-13-8, 9-13-9, 9-13-13, 9-13-14,
23 9-13-15, 9-13-24, 9-13-64, 9-13-223, and 9-13-226, Code of
24 Alabama 1975, which govern forest fire wardens and provide
25 procedures and penalties for the violation of certain fire
26 prevention measures.

27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

28 Section 1. Sections 9-3-5, 9-3-7, 9-13-3, 9-13-10,



29 9-13-11, 9-13-12, 9-13-140, 9-13-141, 9-13-142, 9-13-221, and
30 9-13-225, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as
31 follows:

32 "§9-3-5

33 It shall be the duty of the Alabama Forestry Commission
34 to appoint with the advice and consent of the Governor a State
35 Forester who shall serve as the executive secretary and
36 administrative officer for the commission. The person
37 so individual appointed as the State Forester must have earned
38 a minimum of a bachelor of science degree in forestry and must
39 be licensed and registered under the forestry laws of Alabama
40 with considerable experience in the forestry field. The State
41 Forester shall receive a salary as fixed by the commission and
42 shall serve at the pleasure of the commission ~~and shall~~
43 ~~receive actual expenses. Notwithstanding any other provisions~~
44 of law, the State Forester shall earn and use annual and sick
45 leave and receive reimbursement when traveling on official
46 business of the commission, as if he or she were an employee
47 in the classified or unclassified service of the state. The
48 State Forester shall in no other way be subject to or receive
49 benefits of the state Merit System. Until otherwise provided
50 ~~for by the commission, the present State Forester of the~~
51 ~~Division of Forestry of the Department of Conservation and~~
52 ~~Natural Resources shall continue to serve as the State~~
53 ~~Forester under the commission. The State Forester shall devote~~
54 ~~his or her full time to the duties of his the office. He or she~~
55 ~~shall be required to take the oath of office and give bond in~~
56 ~~the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000).00.~~"



57 "§9-3-7

58 (a) The commission shall have its main offices in the
59 City of Montgomery; ~~provided, that it.~~ The commission may
60 establish other ~~district or subdistrict~~ offices and facilities
61 throughout the state ~~in such places as it may deem~~ as the
62 commission deems advisable or necessary.

63 (b) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no
64 construction or maintenance projects involving commission
65 offices or facilities shall be subject to the jurisdiction or
66 oversight of the Division of Construction Management within
67 the Department of Finance unless the cost of the project
68 exceeds seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000). The
69 Division of Construction Management shall retain its authority
70 to adopt a uniform minimum building standards code that will
71 apply to such projects costing seven hundred fifty thousand
72 dollars (\$750,000) or less."

73 "§9-13-3

74 (a) The commission shall give ~~such~~ advice, assistance, and
75 cooperation as may be practicable to private landowners
76 and promote, so far as it may be able, a proper appreciation
77 in this state among all classes of the population of the
78 benefits to be derived from forest culture, preservation, and
79 use.

80 (b) The commission may take ~~such~~ reasonable and
81 practicable measures ~~as may be~~ reasonable and practicable to
82 prevent and suppress forest fires and other influences harmful
83 to forest growth and may apply ~~such parts of the~~ forestry
84 fund ~~expend~~ monies from the Special State Forestry Fund and



85 other funds accruing to ~~it~~the commission as may be necessary
86 to implement such purposes and to ~~providing~~provide such
87 systems of control as ~~it~~the commission may establish, either
88 independently or in cooperation with the federal government
89 and other agencies, public or private.

90 (c) The commission shall be the sole cooperating agency
91 in joint work in the promotion and development of forestry and
92 other matters and interests devolving upon it by law, among
93 all classes of land ownership in the state, in which both the
94 state and the federal government may have financial or
95 administrative participation.

96 (d) (1) The commission, for the purpose of establishing,
97 developing, and maintaining state forests, ~~administrative~~
98 ~~headquarters sites~~sites for offices or facilities, tower
99 sites, and other areas necessary for its efficient operation,
100 may acquire land by donation, purchase, condemnation, or
101 lease, and for these purposes may ~~use~~expend such funds ~~as may~~
102 ~~be~~ available to ~~it~~the commission and not otherwise obligated,
103 and may enter into agreements with the federal government or
104 other agencies and private landowners for acquiring by lease,
105 purchase, or otherwise such lands as ~~in its judgment are~~the
106 commission deems desirable or necessary.

107 (2) When lands are acquired or leased under this
108 section, the commission ~~is authorized to make expenditures~~
109 ~~from~~may expend any funds available to the commission and not
110 otherwise obligated, for the management, development, and
111 utilization of such ~~areas~~lands, to sell or otherwise dispose
112 of products from such lands, to have sole charge of all state



113 forests and other lands that have been acquired hereunder, and
114 to ~~have authority to make such~~adopt rules and regulations for
115 the management, administration, occupancy, and use of ~~said~~
116 ~~lands and all property and things of whatsoever nature therein~~
117 ~~or thereon as it shall find necessary~~property in state forests
118 and lands acquired by the commission.

119 (3) The commission shall have full power and authority
120 ~~to~~may ~~sell, exchange,~~ or lease lands under its jurisdiction
121 when in its judgment it is advantageous to the state to do so
122 in the orderly development and management of state forests and
123 other designated areas; ~~provided, however,~~ that said sale,
124 ~~lease or exchange shall not be contrary to the terms of any~~
125 ~~contract which it has entered into.~~ Any sale or lease of lands
126 by the commission is subject to Article 3 of Chapter 15 of
127 Title 9 except for the sale or lease of land that has an
128 appraised or assessed value not exceeding fifty thousand
129 (\$50,000).

130 (e) The commission may employ such officers,
131 assistants, and employees as may be necessary and, as to
132 ~~persons~~individuals employed wholly or in part in carrying out
133 the provisions of cooperative agreements with the federal
134 government or other agencies, ~~for such compensation heretofore~~
135 ~~or hereafter paid~~ may use ~~such~~the contributions or receipts as
136 ~~may~~ be derived from the United States or from any private or
137 philanthropic source to pay the compensation of these
138 individuals."

139 "§9-13-10

140 ~~All employees of the State Forestry Commission~~



141 appointed as forest law enforcement officers by the State
142 ~~Forester~~ are hereby constituted peace officers of the State of
143 Alabama with full police power and may exercise such powers
144 anywhere within the state. They are hereby authorized to carry
145 firearms or other weapons when they are actually in the
146 discharge of their duties as such officers as provided by law.
147 They shall be clothed with the power to arrest with or without
148 warrant any person who shall violate any of the laws of the
149 State of Alabama or any rule or regulation of the Alabama
150 Forestry Commission and take him before a proper court for
151 trial. All employees of the State Forestry Commission and all
152 duly appointed officers of the United States whose duty it is
153 to prevent and suppress forest fires are empowered to enter
154 any lands and to construct ~~thereon~~ fire lines, fire lanes, or
155 ~~fire breaks~~firebreaks, to set back fires ~~thereon~~ if necessary
156 to prevent the further spread of fire then actually burning,
157 and to do all other work necessary in the performance of their
158 duties, ~~including the right to enter any lands for the purpose~~
159 ~~of making investigations for the cause or causes of fires,~~
160 without liability for trespass or damage ~~therefrom~~."

161 "§9-13-11

162 (a) It shall be a Class C felony for ~~every~~any person,
163 ~~firm, association, or corporation~~ to do either of the
164 following:

165 (1) Willfully, maliciously, or intentionally ~~burns~~burn,
166 ~~sets~~set fire to, ~~attempts~~attempt to set fire to, or
167 ~~causes~~cause to be burned or any fire to be set to any forest,
168 grass, woodlands, or other inflammable vegetation on any lands



169 not owned, leased, controlled, or in the lawful possession of
170 the person, ~~firm, association, or corporation~~ setting the fire
171 or burning such lands or causing the fire to be set or lands
172 to be burned.

173 (2) ~~shall have~~Have in his or her possession or ~~shall~~
174 set, ~~throw,~~ or place any device, instrument, or other
175 incendiary paraphernalia, including any time-delay incendiary
176 device, in or adjacent to any forest, grass, woodlands, or
177 other inflammable vegetation, ~~which if~~ the forest, grass,
178 woodland, or other inflammable vegetation is not owned,
179 leased, controlled, or in the lawful possession of the person
180 possessing ~~such~~the device, instrument, or paraphernalia.

181 (b) It shall be a Class B misdemeanor for any person, ~~firm, association, or corporation~~ to do any of the following:

183 (1) ~~Who recklessly~~Recklessly or with wanton disregard
184 for the safety of persons or property ~~allows~~allow a fire to
185 escape from land owned, leased, or controlled by him or her,
186 whereby any property of another is injured or destroyed.

187 (2) ~~Who shall burn~~Burn any brush, stumps, logs,
188 rubbish, fallen timber, grass, stubble, or debris of any sort,
189 whether on one's own land or that of another, without taking
190 reasonably necessary precautions, both before lighting the
191 fire and all times thereafter to prevent the escape thereof.

192 (3) ~~Who shall set~~Set fire to any brush, stumps, logs,
193 rubbish, fallen timber, grass, stubble, or debris of any sort
194 within or near any forest or woodland, unless the area
195 surrounding said material to be burned ~~shall be~~is cleared of
196 all inflammable material for a reasonably safe distance in all



197 directions and maintained free of all inflammable material so
198 long as such fire ~~shall continue~~continues to burn.~~r~~

199 (4) ~~Who shall set~~Set a fire within or near any forest,
200 woodland, or grassland without clearing the ground immediately
201 around it free from material ~~which that~~ will carry fire~~r~~ or
202 ~~shall~~ leave such fire before ~~it the fire~~ is totally
203 extinguished~~r~~ or start a fire in any forest, woodland, or
204 grassland by throwing away a lighted cigar, cigarette, or
205 match or by the use of firearms or in any other manner and
206 leave the same unextinguished~~r~~.

207 (5) ~~Who shall destroy~~Destroy, remove, injure, or deface
208 any fire warning or notices or deface any inscription or
209 devices comprising such notices~~r~~.

210 (6) ~~Who shall burn any new ground, field, grasslands,~~
211 ~~or woodlands, or adjoining woodlands or grasslands of another~~
212 ~~within any area which has been placed under organized forest~~
213 ~~fire protection by the State Forestry Commission~~Conduct any
214 prescribed burning, as defined in 9-13-272(2), without first
215 obtaining ~~verbal authorization~~a burn permit from the State
216 Forestry Commission ~~by obtaining a burning permit number~~.

217 (c) It shall be a Class A misdemeanor for any person to
218 recklessly or with wanton disregard for the safety of persons
219 or property burn, set fire to, attempt to set fire to, or
220 cause to be burned or any fire to be set to any forest, grass,
221 woodlands, or other inflammable vegetation on any lands not
222 owned, leased, controlled, or in the lawful possession of the
223 person setting the fire or burning such lands or causing the
224 fire to be set or lands to be burned without the permission of



225 the lawful owner.

226 ~~(d) (1) Burning permits may be obtained from the~~
227 ~~district operations center when the center is in active~~
228 ~~operation. The following criteria must be met:~~

229 ~~a. The person requesting the permit must have adequate~~
230 ~~tools, equipment, and manpower to stay with and control the~~
231 ~~fire during the entire burning period.~~

232 ~~b. The person requesting the permit is responsible to~~
233 ~~keep the fire confined.~~

234 ~~c. In no case will the person requesting the permit~~
235 ~~allow the fire to be unattended until it is dead out.~~

236 ~~(2) Burning permits will be issued if the individual~~
237 ~~requesting the permit states that the above criteria will be~~
238 ~~met unless the State Forester shall declare a fire alert.~~
239 Under fire alert conditions the State Forester may allow
240 issuance of permits at his or her discretion, taking into
241 account the number of fires burning in the district, current
242 and projected weather conditions, the ability of the person
243 seeking the permit to contain the fire and that individual's
244 knowledge of fire behavior, and other factors which may affect
245 fires and fire behavior. A fire alert will be issued by the
246 State Forester for any district or portion of a district that
247 in the opinion of the State Forester, has existing conditions
248 which produce extraordinary danger from fire or smoke.

249 ~~(3) If subsequent to issuance of a permit a lawfully~~
250 ~~authorized fire escapes to the lands of another and an~~
251 ~~investigation reveals that the permit holder did not meet all~~
252 ~~the criteria as set forth above, the fire will be treated as~~



253 ~~if no legal authorization had been obtained.~~

254 ~~(4) A burning permit once issued may be revoked if the~~
255 ~~person requesting the permit fails to comply with proper~~
256 ~~burning procedures or if weather conditions develop which may~~
257 ~~result in erratic fire or smoke behavior.~~

258 ~~(e) An area shall be deemed legally placed under~~
259 ~~organized forest fire protection by the State Forestry~~
260 ~~Commission of the State of Alabama upon proclamation of the~~
261 ~~State Forester. Such proclamation shall describe the lands~~
262 ~~placed in said area and shall be published once a week for two~~
263 ~~consecutive weeks in a newspaper published in the county where~~
264 ~~the lands composing said area are located. If there are no~~
265 ~~newspapers published in the county where said lands are~~
266 ~~located, then said proclamation shall be published in a~~
267 ~~newspaper of an adjoining county. In the event the lands~~
268 ~~composing said area are located in more than one county, such~~
269 ~~proclamation shall be so published in a newspaper in each~~
270 ~~county where said lands are located. Beginning with the~~
271 ~~twelfth day after the first publication of said proclamation~~
272 ~~in said newspaper or newspapers, the lands described in the~~
273 ~~proclamation shall be deemed in an area under organized forest~~
274 ~~fire protection. Upon the trial of any person, firm, or~~
275 ~~corporation for the violation of any provision of this~~
276 ~~section, a certified copy of said proclamation executed by the~~
277 ~~State Forester shall be admissible in evidence and shall be~~
278 ~~conclusive evidence of the fact that the lands described in~~
279 ~~said proclamation constitute an area under organized forest~~
280 ~~fire protection within the meaning of this section.~~



281 ~~(f)~~ (d) All ~~monies~~ collected for any violation of
282 this section as fines, ~~or~~ forfeitures, ~~etc.~~, shall ~~go to be~~
283 deposited into the Alabama Forestry Commission Fund and shall
284 be used in defraying the expense of the administration of
285 such~~the~~ State Forestry Commission."

286 "§9-13-12

287 Any fire burning uncontrolled on any forested, cutover,
288 brushland, ~~or~~ grassland area is ~~hereby declared to be~~ a public
289 nuisance by reason of its menace to life and property. Any
290 person, ~~firm, association or corporation~~ responsible either
291 for the starting or the existence of such~~a~~ fire ~~is hereby~~
292 ~~required to~~shall make a reasonable effort to control or
293 extinguish it~~the fire~~ as soon as he~~or~~ she has knowledge
294 ~~thereof, and if such person, firm, association or corporation~~
295 ~~shall refuse or neglect to do so, any~~of ~~the~~ fire. Any
296 organized fire suppression force may suppress the nuisance
297 ~~thus constituted~~ by controlling and extinguishing the fire,
298 and the cost ~~thereof~~ may be recovered from said~~the~~ person,
299 ~~firm, association or corporation~~ responsible for the starting
300 or existence of such~~the~~ fire."

301 "§9-13-140

302 Whenever conditions exist in any county or counties in
303 this state which produce extraordinary danger from fire, the
304 State Forestry Commission, with approval of the Governor, may
305 by ~~regulation declare~~order, declare a ~~drought~~wildfire
306 emergency condition in such~~the~~ county or counties."

307 "§9-13-141

308 At such time as the State Forestry Commission has



309 declared by regulation a ~~drought~~wildfire emergency in any
310 county or counties, it shall be unlawful in ~~such~~the county or
311 counties for any person to set fire to any forest, grass,
312 woods, wildlands, or marshes or to build a campfire or bonfire
313 or to burn trash or other material that may cause a forest,
314 grass, or woods fire. This prohibition does not apply to any
315 backfire set by an official representative or agent of the
316 State Forestry Commission. Nor does this prohibition apply
317 when a backfire is set by any person for the purpose of saving
318 life or property, provided, that ~~such~~the person shall have
319 the burden of proving the necessity for setting ~~such~~the
320 backfire if he or she claims same as a defense."

321 "§9-13-142

322 Any person violating any provision of this article
323 shall be guilty of a Class B misdemeanor and, upon conviction
324 thereof, shall be fined not less than \$250.00 nor more than
325 \$500.00 and, at the discretion of the court, may be sentenced
326 to the county jail for a period not exceeding six months."

327 "§9-13-221

328 (a) It shall be the duty of any sheriff, ~~policeman,~~
329 ~~forestry officer, police officer,~~ or other peace officer or law
330 enforcement officer in the State of Alabama, ~~who is~~ arresting
331 any person ~~who is~~ charged with violating or attempting to
332 violate Section 9-13-60 or any felony laws of the State of
333 Alabama involving timber or forest products or transactions
334 pertaining thereto, to seize any vehicle and equipment used,
335 which is in the possession or under control of the person or
336 persons charged with violating the laws, and to deliver any



337 ~~such~~the seized vehicle and equipment, to the ~~regional forester~~
338 ~~of the forestry region in which the arrest is made~~State
339 Forester or his or her designee. The person receiving any
340 vehicle and equipment from the arresting officer shall keep
341 ~~it~~the vehicle and equipment in a safe place and in as good
342 condition as when received, until disposed of~~as hereinafter~~
343 ~~provided~~.

344 (b) The seizure of vehicles and equipment provided in
345 this section is authorized only when the arrest is for a crime
346 involving the theft of timber harvesting equipment or the
347 parts thereof, the harvesting, removal, transportation, or
348 disposal of any forest products, or any other transactions
349 related to forest products or timber harvesting equipment or
350 any part or parts from timber harvesting equipment."

351 "§9-13-222

352 Within five days after the arrest or final conviction
353 of any person for violating Section 9-13-60 or any felony laws
354 ~~of the State of Alabama outlined~~described in this
355 articleSection 9-13-221, the person ~~receiving possession of who~~
356 seizes any vehicle and equipment, ~~seized as aforesaid as~~
357 required by Section 9-13-221, shall report the seizure and
358 detention of the vehicle and equipment to the district
359 attorney or other prosecuting official, giving a full
360 description of ~~such~~the vehicle and equipment, any
361 identification number, make and model~~thereof~~, the name of the
362 person in whose possession ~~it~~the vehicle or equipment was
363 found when seized, the person, if any, making claim to ~~same~~the
364 vehicle or equipment or any interest ~~therein~~in the vehicle or



365 equipment if the name can be ascertained or is known,—and the
366 date and place of the seizure,and a statement of the
367 circumstances surrounding the seizing of the property."

368 "§9-13-225

369 (a) When any judgment of condemnation or forfeiture is
370 made in any case filed under~~the provisions of~~ this section,
371 the judge making ~~such~~the judgment shall order and direct that
372 said~~the~~ seized vehicle and equipment be forfeited or awarded

373 to the State Forester to be ~~sold or used by~~ ~~him in the~~
374 enforcement of the law~~the~~ Alabama Forestry Commission or sold
375 pursuant to Section 9-3-22.

376 (b) And said order, in the event that~~If~~ no appeal is
377 taken within 15 days from the rendition thereof, after the
378 order is made, the order shall be carried out and executed.
379 The court, at its discretion, shall direct ~~in said judgment~~
380 that the cost of the proceedings be paid by the
381 person(s) person or persons in whose possession ~~said~~the vehicle
382 and equipment were found when seized, or by any party or
383 parties that claim to own ~~said~~the vehicle and equipment, or
384 any interest therein, and who contested the condemnation and
385 forfeiture~~thereof~~. The State Forester shall keep a permanent
386 record of all~~such~~ vehicles and equipment forfeited and
387 awarded to ~~him as provided for herein, to~~the State Forester
388 and the vehicles and equipment shall be accounted for as other
389 public property."

390 Section 2. Sections 9-3-5.1 and 9-13-11.1 are added to
391 the Code of Alabama 1975, to read as follows:

392 §9-3-5.1



393 The State Forester may declare, by order, a wildfire
394 alert whenever, in his or her opinion, existing weather or
395 other conditions produce a heightened level of danger from
396 fire or smoke. The wildfire alert may be issued for the
397 entirety of the state or for designated portions of the state.

398 §9-13-11.1

399 (a) For the purposes of this section, the term
400 "prescribed burn" shall have the same meaning as defined in
401 Section 9-13-272.

402 (b) No person shall conduct any prescribed burn without
403 first obtaining a burn permit from the State Forestry
404 Commission. Burn permits shall be issued in the manner
405 determined by rule of the State Forester. This may include
406 issuing permits electronically.

407 (c) A person may obtain a burn permit only if the
408 requesting individual makes a declaration that the following
409 criteria are met:

410 (1) The person requesting the permit has adequate
411 tools, equipment, manpower, and other resources to stay with
412 and control the fire during the entire burning period.

413 (2) The person requesting the permit is sufficiently
414 skilled and responsibly able to keep the fire controlled.

415 (3) The person requesting the permit may not allow the
416 fire to be unattended until the fire is fully contained,
417 meaning that the fire, and any burning or smoldering material
418 from the fire, must be entirely within established or natural
419 firebreaks.

420 (d) The State Forester may decline to issue a requested



421 burn permit under any of the following circumstances:

422 (1) The person requesting the burn permit has in the
423 past demonstrated reckless or irresponsible conduct while
424 conducting prescribed burns. Reckless or irresponsible conduct
425 includes, but is not limited to, the person allowing multiple
426 prescribed burns to escape containment and cause material
427 damage to adjacent land or require the State Forestry
428 Commission or fire department to respond to or suppress the
429 fire.

430 (2) The person requesting the burn permit is seeking to
431 conduct a prescribed burn in any area for which the State
432 Forester has issued a wildfire alert. Under these
433 circumstances, the State Forester shall take into account the
434 current number of wildfires in the area and the state
435 generally, current and projected weather conditions, the
436 knowledge, training, and ability of the person seeking the
437 burn permit to control and contain the prescribed burn, and
438 any other factors relevant to determining whether issuing the
439 requested burn permit might create an unreasonable risk of
440 injury to individuals or property.

441 (e) If it is determined that a burn permit was issued
442 by the State Forestry Commission based on any false
443 declaration by the person who requested the burn permit, any
444 prescribed burn conducted pursuant to the false declaration
445 and permit shall be treated as if no legal authorization has
446 been obtained.

447 (f) If it is determined that a burn permit was issued
448 based on any false declaration by the person who requested the



449 burn permit, the burn permit may be revoked by the State
450 Forestry Commission.

451 (g) A burn permit that has already been issued may be
452 revoked at any time by the State Forestry Commission if any
453 person conducting a prescribed burn fails to comply with
454 proper prescribed burning procedures.

455 (h) Regardless of the conduct of any person conducting
456 a prescribed burn pursuant to an issued burn permit, the State
457 Forestry Commission may revoke a burn permit at any time if
458 weather or other conditions develop which may produce erratic
459 fire or smoke behavior or other circumstances that may create
460 an unreasonable risk of injury to individuals or property.

461 (i) If a burn permit is revoked by the State Forestry
462 Commission, any continuation of a prescribed burn conducted
463 pursuant to the burn permit, except actions by the person
464 conducting the prescribed burn to contain, suppress, or
465 otherwise control a prescribed burn that was commenced before
466 the burn permit was revoked, shall be treated as if no legal
467 authorization had been obtained.

468 (j) The State Forestry Commission may adopt rules and
469 forms to implement and administer this chapter.

470 Section 3. Sections 9-13-5, 9-13-6, 9-13-7, 9-13-8, and
471 9-13-9, Code of Alabama 1975, providing for the appointment,
472 duties, and compensation of forest fire wardens; Sections
473 9-13-13, 9-13-14, and 9-13-15, Code of Alabama 1975,
474 prohibiting certain conduct as a precaution against the spread
475 of fire; and Sections 9-13-24, 9-13-64, 9-13-223, and
476 9-13-226, Code of Alabama 1975, establishing the powers and



477 duties of employees, fees for arresting officers, and
478 procedures regarding the reporting of and award of property
479 after timber theft, are repealed.

480 Section 4. This act shall become effective on October
481 1, 2026.



482
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484

House of Representatives

485 Read for the first time and referred15-Jan-26
486 to the House of Representatives
487 committee on Agriculture and
488 Forestry
489
490 Read for the second time and placed21-Jan-26
491 on the calendar:
492 0 amendments
493
494 Read for the third time and passed05-Feb-26
495 as amended
496 Yeas 101
497 Nays 0
498 Abstains 1
499
500
501 John Treadwell
502 Clerk
503