

HJR301 INTRODUCED



1 HJR301
2 6Y7YY31-1
3 By Representatives , Robbins
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 31-Mar-26



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HJR___ ESTABLISHING THE ALABAMA FOREST PRODUCTS RETENTION
AND PULP AND PAPER MILL STABILITY STUDY COMMISSION.

WHEREAS, the forestry industry is a cornerstone of
Alabama's economy, with over 23 million acres of forestland
covering roughly 69 percent of the state; and

WHEREAS, the forestry industry also generates a
total annual economic impact of 36 billion dollars to, and
directly supports over 40,000 jobs in, this state; and

WHEREAS, Alabama is home to more than 110
manufacturing facilities, including critical sawmills and
pulp and paper mills, all of which are crucial for rural
economies and economic development; and

WHEREAS, the pulp and paper sector of the forestry
industry is facing evolving market challenges, international
competition, and environmental regulatory changes that
necessitate a proactive approach to keeping these facilities
in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, it is in the state's best interest to
ensure that pulp and paper mills located in the state remain
competitive, well-capitalized, and operational to sustain
local economies, forestry jobs, and ancillary service jobs;
now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the Alabama Forest Products



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29 Retention and Pulp and Paper Mill Stability Study Commission
30 is established to study the forestry industry as a whole,
31 with a specific focus on the best practices to retain pulp
32 and paper mills in this state and how best to maintain the
33 state's attractiveness to these sectors.

34 (a) The study commission shall consist of the
35 following members:

36 (1) Each member of the Agriculture and Forestry
37 Committee of the House of Representatives, with the chair of
38 the committee serving as chair of the study commission.

39 (2) One member of the House of Representatives,
40 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

41 (3) One member of the Senate, appointed by the
42 Lieutenant Governor.

43 (4) The State Forester, or his or her designee.

44 (5) The Secretary of Commerce, or his or her
45 designee.

46 (6) One member appointed by the Alabama Forestry
47 Association.

48 (7) One member appointed by the Economic Development
49 Partnership of Alabama.

50 (8) One member appointed by Manufacture Alabama.

51 (b) The appointing authorities shall coordinate
52 their appointments to assure the study commission membership
53 is inclusive and reflects the racial, gender, geographic,
54 urban, rural, and economic diversity of the state.

55 (c) The initial meeting of the study commission
56 shall be held at the call of the chair no later than July 1,



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57 2026. The study commission may then meet as necessary to
58 conduct business.

59 (d) The study commission shall assess all of the
60 following matters:

61 (1) Strategies to retain forest products and pulp
62 and paper mills in the state, including methods of
63 encouraging existing pulp and paper mills to maintain and
64 expand their presence in the state.

65 (2) Infrastructure needs of pulp and paper mills in
66 the state, including available resources and energy
67 infrastructure needed for mill operation.

68 (3) Methods by which state environmental, labor, and
69 tax policies may be revised to ensure a pro-growth
70 environment for the pulp and paper sectors.

71 (4) Current transitions in the pulp and paper
72 products market and how the state may attract emerging
73 paper-based technology manufacturing.

74 (e) The study commission shall prepare and submit a
75 comprehensive report of its findings, conclusions, and
76 recommendations for proposed legislation, if any, to the
77 Legislature not later than November 1, 2026, at which point
78 the study commission shall stand dissolved.

79 (f) (1) The legislative members of the study
80 commission shall be entitled to their legislative
81 compensation, per diem, and travel expenses for each day
82 they attend a meeting of the study commission pursuant to
83 Section 49 of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022.

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(2) The nonlegislative members of the study commission shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses in attending meetings of the study commission pursuant to the policies of their respective appointing authority.

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(g) Pursuant to Section 36-14-17.1, Code of Alabama 1975, the study commission shall provide to the Secretary of State a notice of all meetings, the name of each member serving on the study commission, and a copy of the final report and any other documents produced by the study commission throughout its duration.