

Stricken language would be deleted from present law. Underlined language would be added to present law.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 81st General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 1997

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 698

4  
5 By: Senator Walters

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO REQUIRE A STUDY OF THE LONG TERM ECONOMIC AND  
9 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF EXPORT CHIP MILLS AND TO ESTABLISH  
10 A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON SUCH MILLS PENDING THE  
11 COMPLETION OF THE STUDY."

## Subtitle

14 "THE ARKANSAS SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY STUDY  
15 ACT OF 1997."

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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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20 SECTION 1. For the purposes of this act an export chip mill is a  
21 facility which takes whole logs and turns them into wood chips for export to  
22 markets outside the United States. There is concern that such facilities pose  
23 a threat to the long term sustainability of the states timber production  
24 capacity, and may reduce the production of higher value timber and value added  
25 products. There is also concern that harvesting techniques associated with  
26 these mills could be causing unnecessary environmental harm and damage to  
27 public values served by private forests.

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29 SECTION 2. The Arkansas Forestry Commission shall conduct a study of  
30 the long term impacts of export chip mills on Arkansas private Forest  
31 resources. This will include, the economic impacts, including the  
32 sustainability of the states timber production, the impact on value added  
33 industries and high value forest products and the profitability of private  
34 forest; the impact on public values including tourism and recreation; and  
35 environmental impacts, including habitat loss, watershed protection and  
36 species diversity. In performing this study the Commission will establish a

1 nine (9) member steering committee which will oversee the scope and execution  
2 of the study. The committee shall be composed of one (1) representative from  
3 an export chip mill and one (1) non-export chip mill company, a non-industrial  
4 forest owner, a person knowledgeable in forestry economics, a forestry  
5 ecologist, a hardwood sawmill operator, a representative from the Natural  
6 Heritage Commission, a member of the conservation community and an employee of  
7 the Forestry Commission who will chair the committee. In performing the study  
8 the Commission will solicit contributions from all state and federal agencies  
9 concerned with forest related products, wildlife, recreation and ecology, as  
10 well as citizen input. The Commissions staff will compile the study and  
11 draft the report under the supervision and guidance of the steering committee.  
12 The study will report on the potential benefits and harms of export chip  
13 mills, and what regulations, practices or other steps should be considered to  
14 address any concerns associated with such mills, including whether there  
15 should be further development of such mills and if so under what  
16 circumstances. The Commissions final report along with the observations and  
17 or criticisms of the committee or any member thereof shall be presented to the  
18 Legislative Council and the Governor by the end of 1998.

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20 SECTION 3. Until the study required in Section 2 is completed there  
21 shall be no further construction, location, or expansion of export chip mills  
22 in this state, and no agency may issue any permit which would facilitate the  
23 construction, location, or expansion of any such chip mill.

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25 SECTION 4. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature  
26 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code  
27 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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29 SECTION 5. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to  
30 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect  
31 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without  
32 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this  
33 act are declared to be severable.

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35 SECTION 6. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are  
36 hereby repealed.