### 2023 Regular Session

### HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 81

### BY REPRESENTATIVE ECHOLS

# AGRICULTURE: Establishes the ArkLaMiss Timber and Bioinnovation Corridor Commission

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To establish the ArkLaMiss Timber and Bioinnovation Corridor Commission to consider
3	and make recommendations regarding the creation of an ArkLaMiss Timber and
4	Bioinnovation Corridor, a multistate wood basket collaborative between Arkansas,
5	Louisiana, Mississippi, and to serve as the Louisiana delegation for such
6	collaborative when it is established.
7	WHEREAS, the economic impacts of forestry and related industries to the states of
8	Louisiana, Arkansas, and Mississippi cannot be overstated; and
9	WHEREAS, forestry in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi provides one of the
10	largest sources of employment for each state, supporting hundreds of primary and secondary
11	wood-using industries from harvest and transportation to manufacturing and technological
12	innovation, in addition to providing income for public and private landowners and millions
13	of dollars in severance, local, and state taxes each year; and
14	WHEREAS, timber alone is used to manufacture building materials, paper, chemical
15	products, furniture, fixtures, and many other products used in daily life, while timber
16	manufacturing residues are used to produce mulch, bedding, fuel, and other products, and
17	the industry supports the operation of sawmills, panel plants, paper and pulp mills, chip
18	mills, peeling plants, treatment facilities, and secondary manufacturers such as furniture
19	companies, millwork, and cabinet manufacturers; and
20	WHEREAS, in addition, forest biomass is a renewable and widely available
21	byproduct of the industry that has long been used to generate thermal energy and has seen

1 increasing use as feedstock for the production of bioenergy, biofuels, and other bioproducts; 2 and

3 WHEREAS, the compression of biomass into pellets or chips is an example of 4 bioinnovation that has allowed for cleaner burning and more cost effective transportation of 5 biofuels; and

- 6 WHEREAS, if considered together as one ArkLaMiss wood basket, the forest 7 management, harvest schedules, transportation, manufacturing operations, and bioinnovation 8 centers of southeast Arkansas, northeast Louisiana, and western Mississippi could be 9 optimized to respond more efficiently to natural threats and the global market; and
- 10 WHEREAS, an ArkLaMiss Timber and Bioinnovation Corridor, managed through 11 commissions established in each state, could provide such optimization for the benefit of 12 economic development and sustainability of the forestry and related industries in each state; 13 and
- 14 WHEREAS, optimization of the ArkLaMiss wood basket could also position the 15 ArkLaMiss Timber and Bioinnovation Corridor as a world leader in future supply chain 16 reliability and global energy security; and
- 17 WHEREAS, given the importance of these industries and the complexity of forming 18 a multistate collaborative, it is therefore in the state's interest that the legislature should 19 create a commission to consider the creation of an ArkLaMiss Timber and Bioinnovation 20 Corridor and related issues and report is findings and recommendations to the legislature.
- 21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 22 establish the ArkLaMiss Timber and Bioinnovation Corridor Commission to study and make 23 recommendations regarding the creation of an ArkLaMiss Timber and Bioinnovation 24 Corridor.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, at a minimum, the commission shall consider 26 and make recommendations regarding the following:

- 27 (1) Legal and legislative requirements to establish the ArkLaMiss Timber and 28 **Bioinnovation Corridor.**
- 29

(2) Structure and governance of the ArkLaMiss Timber and Bioinnovation Corridor.

1	(3) The powers, duties, and decision-making process for and among state
2	commissions for the ArkLaMiss Timber and Bioinnovation Corridor.
3	(4) The main goals and objectives of the state commissions individually and acting
4	collectively for ArkLaMiss Timber and Bioinnovation Corridor.
5	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission may also consider any other
6	matter relevant to the ArkLaMiss Timber and Bioinnovation Corridor, including but not
7	limited to (1) improvements to infrastructure between the three states that may help
8	maximize opportunities; (2) rural development opportunities for a collective ArkLaMiss
9	wood basket; (3) identification of stakeholders, including industry, governmental, trade,
10	advocacy, and biotech representatives that may be able to contribute to policy making; (4)
11	technological advancements in the industry that could be capitalized on through the
12	multistate collaborative.
13	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the commission are encouraged
14	to collaborate with their counterparts in Arkansas and Mississippi as appropriate to further
15	the goals of the commission.
16	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall be composed of the
17	following members:
18	(1) One member from the Louisiana Department of Transportation and
19	Development, to be appointed by the secretary.
20	(2) One member from Louisiana Economic Development appointed by the
21	secretary.
22	(3) One member from the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry
23	appointed by the commissioner.
24	(4) The state representative for House District 14.
25	(5) Two members from the Louisiana House of Representatives appointed by the
26	speaker.
27	(6) Two members from the Louisiana Senate appointed by the president.
28	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the commission shall serve without
29	compensation, except per diem or expense reimbursement to which they may individually
30	be entitled as members of their constituent organizations.

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1	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each appointing authority shall submit the names
2	of their appointments to the state representative for House District No. 14 no later than July
3	31, 2023.
4	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall convene its first meeting
5	no later than September 1, 2023, at the call of the state representative representing House
6	District No. 14.
7	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the commission shall elect a
8	chairman and other officers as it deems appropriate at the first meeting.
9	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall submit a report of its
10	findings and recommendations on or before February 1, 2024, to the Legislature of
11	Louisiana and the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library.
12	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
13	secretary of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, the secretary of
14	Louisiana Economic Development, the commissioner of the Louisiana Department of
15	Agriculture and Forestry, the speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives, and the
16	president of the Louisiana Senate.

## DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Establishes the ArkLaMiss Timber and Bioinnovation Corridor Commission to consider and make recommendations regarding the creation of an ArkLaMiss Timber and Bioinnovation Corridor, a multistate wood basket collaborative between Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and to serve as the La. delegation for such collaborative when it is established.

Requires the commission to study and make recommendations regarding the following:

- (1) Legal and legislative requirements to establish the ArkLaMiss Timber and Bioinnovation Corridor.
- (2) Structure and governance of the ArkLaMiss Timber and Bioinnovation Corridor;
- (3) The powers, duties, and decision-making process for and among state commissions for the ArkLaMiss Timber and Bioinnovation Corridor.
- (4) The main goals and objectives of the state commissions individually and acting collectively for ArkLaMiss Timber and Bioinnovation Corridor.

The commission may also consider any relevant matter, including the following:

- (1) Improvements to infrastructure between the three states that may help maximize opportunities.
- (2) Rural development opportunities for a collective ArkLaMiss wood basket.
- (3) Identification of stakeholders, including industry, governmental, trade, advocacy, and biotech representatives that may be able to contribute to policy making.
- (4) Technological advancements in the industry that could be capitalized on through the multistate collaborative.

The commission is to be composed of the following members:

- (1) One member from the La. Department of Transportation and Development, to be appointed by the secretary.
- (2) One member from La. Economic Development appointed by the secretary.
- (3) One member from the La. Department of Agriculture and Forestry appointed by the commissioner.
- (4) The state representative for House District 14.
- (5) Two members from the La. House of Representatives appointed by the speaker.
- (6) Two members from the La. Senate appointed by the president.

The commission is required to convene its first meeting no later than Sept. 1, 2023, and it must submit a report of its findings and recommendations by Feb. 1, 2024.