

State of Arkansas  
90th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2015

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 910

By: Senator Hester

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAWS CONCERNING THE  
ADMINISTRATION OF LEASES AND PERMITS FOR NATURAL  
RESOURCES OF THE STATE AND THE NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMITTEE; TO INCREASE PENALTIES FOR REMOVING NATURAL  
RESOURCES WITHOUT A PERMIT FROM OR LEASE WITH THE  
COMMISSIONER OF STATE LANDS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAWS CONCERNING THE  
ADMINISTRATION OF LEASES AND PERMITS FOR  
NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE STATE AND THE  
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE; AND TO  
INCREASE PENALTIES FOR REMOVING NATURAL  
RESOURCES WITHOUT A PERMIT.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 22-5-803(a)(1), concerning penalties for removing sand, gravel, oil, natural gas, casinghead gas, coal, minerals, timber, or logs from the beds or bars of navigable rivers and lakes or from state lands without obtaining a lease or permit from the Commissioner of State Lands, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) ~~If any~~ Upon conviction a person, firm, company, corporation, or association ~~shall remove~~ is guilty of a Class D felony if the person, firm, company, corporation, or association without first obtaining a lease or permit to do so from the Commissioner of State Lands knowingly removes any sand, gravel, oil, natural gas, casinghead gas, coal or other minerals, or



any timber or logs from:

(A) ~~the~~ The beds or bars of navigable rivers and lakes in this state; or

(B) ~~from any~~ Any other lands or interest in lands held in the name of the ~~State of Arkansas without first obtaining a lease or permit to do so from the Commissioner of State Lands, that person, firm, company, or corporation shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not less than three hundred dollars (\$300) and not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000)~~ state.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 22-5-804(a), concerning members of the Natural Resources Committee, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) The Natural Resources Committee is created by this section and shall be composed of the following members:

(A) ~~the~~ The Director of the Department of Finance and Administration ~~or his or her designee;~~

(B) ~~the~~ The Director of Production and Conservation of the Oil and Gas Commission;

(C) ~~the~~ The State Geologist;

(D) ~~the~~ The State Forester;

(E) ~~the~~ The Executive Director of the Arkansas ~~Soil and Water Conservation~~ Natural Resources Commission;

(F) ~~the~~ The Commissioner of State Lands;

(G) ~~the~~ The Executive Secretary of the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission;

(H) ~~the~~ The Director of the Department of Parks and Tourism ~~or his or her designee;~~

(I) ~~the~~ The Director of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality; and

(J) ~~the~~ The Director of the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission.

(2) A member of the committee may designate a person within the member's organization to attend meetings and conduct committee business on the member's behalf.

APPROVED: 04/06/2015