

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 649

By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to recognize the Tennessee Division of Forestry on the celebration of its 100th anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this General Assembly recognize those state government agencies and their employees who, through their dedication and industry, contribute to the welfare and success of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Division of Forestry is one such agency, and it is celebrating one hundred years of service to the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Forestry originated from the statute for the State Geologic Survey which commissioned “an investigation of forest, streams and water powers of the state”; on February 17, 1914, the Geological Commission established a Forestry Division, and on September 1, 1914, with a focus on wildfire control and reforestation, the first state forester began work; and

WHEREAS, today the Division of Forestry oversees Tennessee’s fourteen million acres of forest, which covers fifty-two percent of the State; under the stewardship of the Division of Forestry, Tennessee’s forests provide the benefits of wildlife habitats, timber production, recreation, air and water quality, energy conservation, carbon sequestration, enhanced property values, storm water control, and natural heritage; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Forestry supports reforestation efforts by providing quality, affordable tree seedlings to Tennessee landowners and optimizing the genetics of tree seedlings to maximize productivity; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Forestry works with businesses and landowners to extend forest resource utilization, facilitate the marketing of timber and wood products, and promote healthy and renewable forestry practices; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Division of Forestry protects our forests from wildfire and pests, safeguards our water quantity, and promotes sustainable forest management so that the citizens of Tennessee can rely on the bounty of Tennessee's forests for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, the beauty and natural resources of Tennessee's forests have been safeguarded by the Tennessee Division of Forestry for the last century, and that legacy should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and celebrate the one hundred years of faithful service of the Tennessee Division of Forestry and its employees, past and present, and reflect on the vital contributions the Division of Forestry has made to the forests of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.