SB326

150093-2

By Senators Keahey and Whatley

RFD: Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry

First Read: 12-MAR-13
SYNOPSIS: This bill would specify that any green building standard used for construction or major renovation of public buildings by state and local governments would be required to use certain forest certification standards for wood consistent with standards used in the forest industry in this state.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to public buildings constructed or renovated by state and local governments in this state; and to provide for certain standards relating to the use of wood as a part of a green building standard.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

(1) The state should undertake initiatives that foster cost-efficient and ecologically responsible buildings.
(2) Reducing long-term operations and maintenance costs is essential to the economic health of our state, ensuring that taxpayer dollars are spent on delivery of critical services.

(3) Green building standards have the potential to increase the energy efficiency of buildings and, therefore, minimize operational costs.

Section 2. As used in this act, the following words shall have the following meanings:

(1) FOREST CERTIFICATION STANDARD. Any third-party verified standard dedicated to responsible forest management including the American Tree Farm System, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, and the Forest Stewardship Council.

(2) GREEN BUILDING STANDARD. Any system or rating tool created to rate the environmental efficiency of the design and operation of a building including the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system, the International Green Construction Code (IGCC), the Green Building Initiative's Green Globes rating system, or any other nationally recognized, high-performance green building rating system.

(3) MAJOR RENOVATION. Any project with a construction budget that equals 50 percent or more of the current replacement costs of a building.

(4) PUBLIC AGENCY. The State of Alabama including any department, office, board, commission, or agency thereof,
state supported institutions of higher learning, and any
county, municipal, or other political subdivision.

Section 3. When state funding is used in whole or in
part for the construction or major renovation of any public
building, a green building standard shall not be used by any
public agency for any construction or major renovation project
that does not give certification credits equally to forest
products grown, manufactured, and certified under all forest
certification standards recognized including the Sustainable
Forestry Initiative, the American Tree Farm System, and the
Forest Stewardship Council.

Section 4. This act shall become effective on the
first day of the third month following its passage and
approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.