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By: **Delegate Cardin**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2005

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Consolidation of State Forest and Park Rangers and Natural Resources**  
3 **Police - Staffing of State Parks and Environmental Areas**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring a certain number of sworn law enforcement officers to  
5 be stationed in each State park or environmental area, except under certain  
6 circumstances; prohibiting a reduction of law enforcement protection and  
7 services in State parks and environmental areas after the consolidation of the  
8 Natural Resources police officers and the State Forest and Park Service  
9 Rangers; and generally relating to the staffing of State parks and environmental  
10 areas.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article - Natural Resources  
13 Section 1-203(a)  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

16 BY adding to  
17 Article - Natural Resources  
18 Section 5-206.1  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
22 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

23 **Article - Natural Resources**

24 1-203.

25 (a) The Secretary shall, within the limits of any appropriation made for this  
26 purpose, appoint Natural Resources police officers as the Secretary deems necessary  
27 for the efficient administration of the Natural Resources Police Force AND AS  
28 REQUIRED UNDER § 5-206.1 OF THIS ARTICLE. All appointments shall be made from a

1 list of eligible persons prepared in accordance with the provisions of the State  
2 Personnel and Pensions Article.

3 5-206.1.

4 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "SWORN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER" INCLUDES A  
5 NATURAL RESOURCES POLICE OFFICER OR A STATE FOREST AND PARK SERVICE  
6 RANGER.

7 (B) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE  
8 DEPARTMENT SHALL STATION AT LEAST ONE SWORN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER  
9 IN EACH PARK OR ENVIRONMENTAL AREA FOR THE PROTECTION AND SECURITY OF  
10 MARYLAND CITIZENS.

11 (2) IF A STATION FOR A SWORN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER DOES NOT  
12 EXIST IN A PARK OR ENVIRONMENTAL AREA, THEN AT LEAST ONE SWORN LAW  
13 ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SHALL BE STATIONED NEAR TO THE PARK OR  
14 ENVIRONMENTAL AREA.

15 (C) THERE MAY NOT BE A REDUCTION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT PROTECTION  
16 AND SERVICES IN THE STATE PARKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS AFTER THE  
17 CONSOLIDATION OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES POLICE AND THE STATE FOREST AND  
18 PARK SERVICE RANGERS.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
20 July 1, 2005.