

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 538 (Senator Lawlah, *et al.*)

Budget and Taxation

Referred to Appropriations

**Forest and Park Rangers - Salary, Step, and Grade Increases -
In Relationship to Natural Resources Police**

This amended bill provides that whenever Natural Resources Police Officers receive a salary increase or a grade or step increase, Forest and Park Rangers must receive a salary increase based on the same percentage or an equal grade or step increase. Natural Resources Police Officers are entitled to salaries identical to comparable ranks in the salary plan for State Police Officers.

This bill is effective July 1, 1997.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Governor’s proposed FY 1998 budget includes approximately \$2 million in general and special funds for a 10% salary increase for Forest and Park Rangers and Natural Resources Police, which is not contingent upon enactment of this bill. Potential significant increase in State expenditures in future years. Revenues would not be affected.

(in millions)	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002
GF/SF Expenditures	\$2.0	\$0.9	\$0.9	\$1.0	\$1.0
GF/SF Revenues	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Effect	(\$2.0)	(\$0.9)	(\$0.9)	(\$1.0)	(\$1.0)

Note: () - decrease; GF - general funds; FF - federal funds; SF - special funds

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None. This bill would not directly impact small businesses.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: The Governor’s proposed fiscal 1998 budget includes a salary increase of \$959,600 for Forest and Park Rangers (this includes fringe benefit costs). The budget also includes a 10% increase in salary for Natural Resources Police Officers (\$1.05 million). The

Natural Resources Police are currently on the same salary scale as the State Police, who also are budgeted to receive a 10% increase in salary.

The proposed salary plan for the State Police involves a 10% raise in fiscal 1998, and a 4% raise in each of the next six years. Codifying parity to the Natural Resources Police and the Forest and Park Rangers would result in these individuals receiving the same salary increases in each year. The expenditure increase from each salary adjustment is shown in the chart below.

Parity Salary Increases

Year	Raise	Park Police	Rangers	Total
FY 1998	10%	\$1,050,000	\$959,600	\$2,009,620
FY 1999	4%	\$462,000	\$422,200	\$884,220
FY 2000	4%	\$480,500	\$439,100	\$919,620
FY 2001	4%	\$499,700	\$456,700	\$956,420
FY 2002	4%	\$519,700	\$474,900	\$994,620
FY 2003	4%	\$540,500	\$493,900	\$1,034,420
FY 2004	4%	\$562,100	\$513,700	\$1,075,820
TOTAL		\$4,114,500	\$3,760,100	\$7,874,740

Total salary increase through fiscal 2004 excluding the already budgeted amount for fiscal 1998 total \$5.9 million.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources, Department of Budget and Management, Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 11, 1997
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