

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1234 (Delegate Taylor. *et al.*)

Appropriations

Natural Resources Police Force - Salaries

This bill provides that Natural Resources Police officers are subject to the same salary plan, including grades and steps and increments based on length of service, as State Police officers. The bill requires that whenever State Police officers receive a salary, grade, or step increase, Natural Resources Police officers receive an equal salary, grade, and step increase.

This bill takes effect July 1, 1998.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures could increase by \$326,500 in FY 1999. Indeterminate increase in expenditures in future years depending on the frequency and amount of salary plan increases.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

Background: Chapter 676 of 1997 provides that whenever Natural Resource Police officers receive a salary, grade, or step increase, park rangers in the Forest and Park Service will receive the same increase. Since 1983, salary parity for the Natural Resources Police and the State Police has been the general practice, to the extent possible, through the annual budget process. Currently, as a result of this practice, ranks below lieutenant in the Natural Resources Police are at the same salary level as their counterparts in the State Police.

State Effect: Expenditures will increase by \$326,500 in fiscal 1999 to bring Natural Resources Police officers with the ranks of lieutenant through lieutenant colonel to parity with officers of corresponding rank in the Department of State Police. The bill will affect 21 Natural Resources Police officers and 29 park rangers. In order to achieve parity with State Police officers each of the 21 affected Natural Resources Police officers will need to have their salary increased by one grade, including fringe benefits. Therefore, 29 park rangers will also get a grade increase. This represents an average salary increase of \$6,500 for each of the affected 50 officers. Future year expenditures would depend on the frequency and amount of the increases given. It is assumed that in future years these funds will be included in the annual budget.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources, Department of State Police, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 23, 1998
tlw Revised - Updated Information - February 24, 1998

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