

Department of Legislative Services  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 785 (Senator Bromwell)

Budget and Taxation

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 personnel expenditures for increased salaries and fringe benefits for Department of Natural Resources Police officers and park rangers would increase by \$334,500 in FY 2000. Future year expenditures reflect anticipated salary growth of 3.5%.

(in dollars)	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
GF Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditures	334,500	346,200	358,300	370,900	383,800
Net Effect	(\$334,500)	(\$346,200)	(\$358,300)	(\$370,900)	(\$383,800)

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

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

## Fiscal Analysis

**Background:** Chapter 676 of 1997 provides that whenever Natural Resource Police (NRP) 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 \$334,505 in fiscal 2000 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 \$6,690 for each of the affected 50 officers. The fiscal 2000 expenditure estimate reflects the adjustment of the current salaries of officers in the NRP and park rangers to establish parity with the State Police Salary Plan, the 4% salary increase in the State Police Salary Plan, and fringe benefits. The fiscal 2000 estimate also includes a \$1,275 per position adjustment for a general State salary increase. Out-year general fund expenditure increases reflect 3.5% annual salary increases and fringe benefits.

Troopers in the State Police Salary Plan will also receive a clothing stipend of \$1,000 in fiscal 2000. It is uncertain if the officers affected by this bill would receive these stipends; hence this estimate does not reflect any adjustment for the stipends.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 14, 1999  
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