

HOUSE BILL 1264

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E4

2000 Regular Session  
(01r2736)

**ENROLLED BILL**  
-- Judiciary/Judicial Proceedings --

Introduced by **Delegates Dembrow and K. Kelly**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this  
\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, \_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker.

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Procedure - Warrantless Arrest - State Forest and Park Service**  
3 **Rangers Police Force**

4 FOR the purpose of adding a ~~ranger~~ member of the State Forest and Park Service  
5 Police Force to the list of police officers authorized to arrest a person without a  
6 warrant under certain circumstances for certain offenses; and generally relating  
7 to the State Forest and Park Service.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
9 Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments  
10 Section 594B(a) through (f)  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
14 Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments

1 Section 594B(g)  
2 Annotated Code of Maryland  
3 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

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

6 **Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments**

7 594B.

8 (a) A police officer may arrest without a warrant any person who commits, or  
9 attempts to commit, any felony or misdemeanor in the presence of, or within the view  
10 of, such officer.

11 (b) A police officer who has probable cause to believe that a felony or  
12 misdemeanor is being committed in the officer's presence or within the officer's view,  
13 may arrest without a warrant any person whom the officer may reasonably believe to  
14 have committed such offense.

15 (c) A police officer may arrest a person without a warrant if the officer has  
16 probable cause to believe that a felony has been committed or attempted and that  
17 such person has committed or attempted to commit a felony whether or not in the  
18 officer's presence or view.

19 (d) (1) A police officer may arrest a person without a warrant if:

20 (i) The officer has probable cause to believe that:

21 1. The person battered the person's spouse or other  
22 individual with whom the person resides;

23 2. There is evidence of physical injury; and

24 3. Unless the person is immediately arrested:

25 A. The person may not be apprehended;

26 B. The person may cause injury to the person or damage to  
27 the property of one or more other persons; or

28 C. The person may tamper with, dispose of, or destroy  
29 evidence; and

30 (ii) A report to the police was made within 48 hours of the alleged  
31 incident.

32 (2) If the police officer has probable cause to believe that mutual battery  
33 occurred and arrest is necessary under this subsection, the officer shall consider

- 1 whether one of the parties acted in self-defense when making the determination
- 2 whether to arrest the person whom the officer believes to be the primary aggressor.

3 (e) A police officer may arrest a person without a warrant if the officer has  
4 probable cause to believe:

5 (1) That an offense listed in subsection (f) of this section has been  
6 committed;

7 (2) That the person has committed the offense; and

8 (3) That unless the person is immediately arrested:

9 (i) The person may not be apprehended;

10 (ii) The person may cause injury to the person or damage to the  
11 property of one or more other persons; or

12 (iii) The person may tamper with, dispose of, or destroy evidence.

13 (f) The offenses referred to in subsection (e) of this section are:

14 (1) Those offenses specified in the following sections of Article 27, as they  
15 may be amended from time to time:

16 (i) Section 8(a) (relating to malicious burning);

17 (ii) Section 36 (relating to carrying or wearing weapon);

18 (iii) Section 111 (relating to destroying, injuring, etc., property of  
19 another);

20 (iv) Section 156 (relating to giving a false alarm of a fire);

21 (v) Section 287 (relating to possession of hypodermic syringes, etc.,  
22 restricted);

23 (vi) Sections 342 through 344 (theft) where the value of the property  
24 stolen was less than \$300;

25 (vii) Sections 276 through 302 (relating to drugs and other  
26 dangerous substances) as they shall be amended from time to time;

27 (viii) Section 36B (relating to handguns);

28 (ix) Section 388 (relating to manslaughter by automobile, etc.); and

29 (x) Section 335A (relating to indecent exposure).

30 (2) Attempts to commit the offenses specified in the following sections of  
31 Article 27 as they may be amended from time to time:

- 1 (i) Section 8(a) (relating to malicious burning);
- 2 (ii) Section 111 (relating to destroying, injuring, etc., property of  
3 another);
- 4 (iii) Sections 342 through 344 (theft) where the value of the property  
5 stolen was less than \$300;
- 6 (iv) Section 33A (relating to breaking into a building or boat with  
7 intent to steal); or
- 8 (v) Sections 276 through 302 (relating to drugs and other  
9 dangerous substances), as they shall be amended from time to time.
- 10 (g) For purposes of this section, the term "police officer" means any person  
11 who, in an official capacity, is authorized by law to make arrests and who is:
- 12 (1) A member of the Department of State Police;
- 13 (2) A member of the Baltimore City Police Department;
- 14 (3) A member of the Baltimore City School Police Force;
- 15 (4) A member of the police department, bureau, or force of any county;
- 16 (5) A member of the police department, bureau, or force of any  
17 incorporated city or town, except Baltimore City, which is a "qualifying municipality",  
18 as defined in § 66(a)(7) and § 69 of Article 88B of this Code;
- 19 (6) A member of the Mass Transit Administration Police Force, or the  
20 Maryland Port Administration Police Force of the Department of Transportation or  
21 the Maryland Transportation Authority Police Force;
- 22 (7) A member of the University of Maryland or Morgan State University  
23 Police Force;
- 24 (8) Appointed, or given the powers of, a special policeman employed and  
25 compensated by the State for the enforcement of law and the maintenance of order on  
26 property of the State or of any of its agencies, or for the protection of such property,  
27 and includes a member of the Department of General Services security force;
- 28 (9) The sheriff of any county and whose usual duties include the making  
29 of arrests;
- 30 (10) A regularly employed deputy sheriff of any county and who is  
31 compensated by the county and whose usual duties include the making of arrests;
- 32 (11) A member of the Natural Resources Police of the Department of  
33 Natural Resources;

1 (12) A member of the Investigative Services Unit of the Comptroller's  
2 Office;

3 (13) A member of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning  
4 Commission Park Police;

5 (14) A member of the Housing Authority of Baltimore City Police Force;

6 (15) A member of the Crofton Police Department;

7 (16) A member of the WMATA Metro Transit Police, subject to the  
8 jurisdictional limitations under Article XVI, § 76 of the Washington Metropolitan  
9 Area Transit Authority Compact, § 10-204 of the Transportation Article;

10 (17) Subject to subsections (i) and (m)(7) of this section, the State Fire  
11 Marshal or a full-time investigative and inspection assistant of the Office of the State  
12 Fire Marshal; [or]

13 (18) A member of the Internal Investigative Unit of the Department of  
14 Public Safety and Correctional Services; OR

15 (19) A ~~RANGER~~ MEMBER OF THE STATE FOREST AND PARK SERVICE  
16 POLICE FORCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
18 October 1, 2000.