

HOUSE BILL 1264

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2000 Regular Session  
0lr2736  
CF 0lr2753

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By: **Delegates Dembrow and K. Kelly**  
Introduced and read first time: February 16, 2000  
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations  
Re-referred to: Judiciary, February 28, 2000

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Committee Report: Favorable  
House action: Adopted  
Read second time: March 25, 2000

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

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

4 FOR the purpose of adding a ranger of the State Forest and Park Service to the list of  
5 police officers authorized to arrest a person without a warrant under certain  
6 circumstances for certain offenses; and generally relating to the State Forest  
7 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  
15 Section 594B(g)  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

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

**Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments**

2 594B.

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 2. There is evidence of physical injury; and

19 3. Unless the person is immediately arrested:

20 A. The person may not be apprehended;

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

23 C. The person may tamper with, dispose of, or destroy  
24 evidence; and

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

27 (2) If the police officer has probable cause to believe that mutual battery  
28 occurred and arrest is necessary under this subsection, the officer shall consider  
29 whether one of the parties acted in self-defense when making the determination  
30 whether to arrest the person whom the officer believes to be the primary aggressor.

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

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

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

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

3 (i) The person may not be apprehended;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 (ii) Section 111 (relating to destroying, injuring, etc., property of  
28 another);

29 (iii) Sections 342 through 344 (theft) where the value of the property  
30 stolen was less than \$300;

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

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

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

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

9           (19)     A RANGER OF THE STATE FOREST AND PARK SERVICE OF THE  
10 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

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