

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1361 (Delegate Klausmeier)
 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 Maryland 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, or step increase.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2001.

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 \$444,600 in FY 2002. Future year expenditures reflect anticipated salary growth of 6.5% in FY 2003 and 4.5% annually thereafter.

(in dollars)	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	444,600	473,500	494,800	517,100	540,400
Net Effect	(\$444,600)	(\$473,500)	(\$494,800)	(\$517,100)	(\$540,400)

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: 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.

Background: 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 Fiscal Effect: Expenditures will increase by \$444,600 in fiscal 2002 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. According to the Department of Natural Resources, the bill will affect 25 Natural Resources Police officers and 31 park rangers. In order to achieve parity with State Police officers, each of the 25 affected Natural Resources Police officers will need to have their salary increased by one grade, including fringe benefits. Therefore, 31 park rangers will also get a grade increase. This represents an average salary/fringe benefits increase of approximately \$7,940 for each of the affected 56 officers. Out-year general fund expenditure increases reflect a 6.5% annual salary increase in fiscal 2003 and a 4.5% annual increase thereafter.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Identical legislation was introduced as SB 785/HB 1173 of 1999 and HB 1234 of 1998. The Senate Budget and Taxation Committee held a hearing on SB 785 of 1999 but no further action was taken. HB 1173 of 1999 received an unfavorable report from the House Appropriations Committee. HB 1234 of 1998 received an unfavorable report from the House Appropriations Committee.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – March 15, 2001
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