

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 603 (Senator Hafer, *et al.*)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Natural Resources - Rangers - Jurisdiction

This bill expands the jurisdiction of forest, park, and wildlife rangers to include all roadways owned by the State that are utilized by those rangers during work hours to travel from one property owned by the State and managed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to another.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: This bill's changes could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Forest, park, and wildlife rangers have jurisdiction over: (1) properties owned by the State and managed by DNR; (2) railroad rights-of-way and utility properties which are not owned by the State but which traverse properties owned by the State and managed by DNR; (3) all public and private properties which are within the boundaries of State properties managed by DNR; (4) all waters of the State within one mile of the shoreline of all properties owned by DNR; (5) all public and private property adjoining property owned by the State and managed by DNR; (6) all park property in Maryland owned by the federal government; (7) all roadways within the boundaries of or that portion of roadway adjoining properties owned by the State and managed by DNR; and (8) any property in Maryland for the purpose of executing a warrant that has resulted

from law enforcement activities on property on which a forest, park, and wildlife ranger may exercise law enforcement powers.

Background: The Secretary of Natural Resources commissions forest, park, and wildlife rangers as the Secretary deems necessary for the enforcement of laws and regulations relating to forests and parks. According to DNR, there are currently 182 forest, park, and wildlife rangers.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1140 (Delegate Cole, *et al.*) - Judiciary.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources, Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Legislative Services

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