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By: **Senators Hafer, Colburn, Munson, Jacobs, and Mooney**  
Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2003  
Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources - Rangers - Jurisdiction**

3 FOR the purpose of expanding the law enforcement jurisdiction of forest, park, and  
4 wildlife rangers to include all roadways owned by the State that are utilized by  
5 forest, park, and wildlife rangers during work hours to travel from one property  
6 owned by the State and managed by the Department to another, or to and from  
7 court on official business.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article - Natural Resources  
10 Section 5-206  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

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

15 **Article - Natural Resources**

16 5-206.

17 (a) The Secretary may commission any person to act as a forest or park  
18 warden for a term of two years, subject to removal at any time at the pleasure of the  
19 Secretary. While holding office, a warden has and may exercise the authority and  
20 power of a Natural Resources police officer or a law enforcement officer as provided in  
21 his commission so far as arresting and prosecuting persons for violations of any forest  
22 or park laws or of the laws, rules and regulations enacted for the protection of the  
23 State forestry reservations, State parks, historic monuments, recreation areas, or for  
24 the protection of fish and game.

25 (b) The Secretary shall, within the limits of any appropriation made for this  
26 purpose, commission forest, park, and wildlife rangers as the Secretary deems  
27 necessary for the enforcement of laws and regulations as provided in this subsection.  
28 All appointments shall be made from a list of eligible persons prepared in accordance  
29 with the provisions of the State Personnel and Pensions Article. An employee so

1 commissioned and assigned law enforcement duties has and may exercise the powers  
2 of a Natural Resources police officer or a law enforcement officer of the State. These  
3 powers may be exercised upon:

4 (1) Properties owned by the State and managed by the Department;

5 (2) Railroad rights-of-way and utility properties which are not owned by  
6 the State, but which traverse properties owned by the State and managed by the  
7 Department;

8 (3) All public and private properties which are within the boundaries of  
9 State properties managed by the Department;

10 (4) All waters of the State within one mile of the shoreline of all  
11 properties owned by the Department;

12 (5) All public and private property adjoining property owned by the State  
13 and managed by the Department;

14 (6) All park property in Maryland owned by the federal government;

15 (7) All roadways within the boundaries of or that portion of roadway  
16 adjoining properties owned by the State and managed by the Department; [and]

17 (8) Any property in Maryland for the purpose of executing a warrant  
18 that has resulted from law enforcement activities on property on which a forest, park,  
19 and wildlife ranger may exercise law enforcement powers; AND

20 (9) ALL ROADWAYS OWNED BY THE STATE THAT ARE UTILIZED BY  
21 FOREST, PARK, AND WILDLIFE RANGERS DURING WORK HOURS TO TRAVEL FROM  
22 ONE PROPERTY OWNED BY THE STATE AND MANAGED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO  
23 ANOTHER, OR TO AND FROM COURT ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

24 (c) In exercising the powers granted under subsection (b) of this section, the  
25 law enforcement officer shall make every attempt to minimize delay of the operations  
26 of railroads and all utilities.

27 (d) Unless the Department has a signed memorandum of understanding with  
28 the law enforcement agency with primary jurisdiction over the property, a forest,  
29 park, and wildlife ranger may not exercise law enforcement powers under the  
30 provisions of subsection (b)(3) and (5) of this section.

31 (e) All forest, park, and wildlife rangers, including persons appointed for  
32 training prior to regular assignment as a ranger, shall remain in a probationary  
33 status for a period of 2 years from the date of initial appointment. The Secretary may  
34 discharge an employee in probationary status for any cause which is deemed  
35 sufficient in the sole discretion of the Secretary.

36 (f) (1) Whenever Natural Resources police officers receive a salary increase,  
37 forest and park rangers in the State Forest and Park Service shall receive a salary

1 increase in the same percentage as the salary increase received by Natural Resources  
2 police officers.

3           (2)       Whenever Natural Resources police officers receive a grade or step  
4 increase, forest and park rangers in the State Forest and Park Service shall receive  
5 an equal grade or step increase.

6           (g)       In cases of inconsistency between this subtitle and the provisions of the  
7 State Personnel and Pensions Article, the provisions of this subtitle shall control as to  
8 all matters relating to Natural Resources law enforcement officers.

9       SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
10 October 1, 2003.