

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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R. & S.

L.D. 643

DATE: 5-16-97

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
118TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

HOUSE AMENDMENT "B" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 472, L.D. 643, Bill, "An Act to Permit Forest Fire Wardens and Forest Rangers to Carry Weapons"

Amend the amendment by striking out all of subsection 4 (page 1, lines 32 to 34 in amendment) and inserting in its place the following:

'4. Weapons. The Commissioner of Conservation shall adopt rules in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act to establish a policy that allows a forest ranger to carry a weapon while on duty. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A.'

Further amend the amendment by striking out all of the 3rd and 4th paragraphs after the new title (page 1, lines 36 to 42 in amendment)

FISCAL NOTE

The Department of Conservation will incur some minor additional costs to adopt rules which allow a forest ranger to carry a weapon. These costs can be absorbed within the department's existing budgeted resources.

The rules that are adopted could result in significant General Fund costs. Rules that require all forest rangers to

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2 carry a department issued weapon could result in additional
3 General Fund appropriations of as much as \$200,000 for the first
4 year of implementation and approximately \$70,000 for every year
5 thereafter. However, if the rules allow forest rangers to carry
6 their own weapons and to bear the cost of any required training,
7 then the additional costs would be minimal.

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SUMMARY

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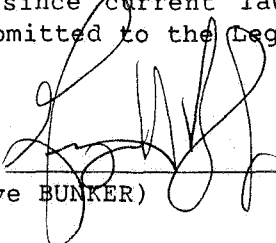
13 This amendment requires the Commissioner of Conservation to
14 establish a policy for forest rangers to carry weapons by rule
15 under the Maine Administrative Procedure Act.

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17 It removes the requirement that the commissioner submit the
18 written policy since current law requires all major substantive
19 rules to be submitted to the Legislature for approval.

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SPONSORED BY: 
(Representative BUNKER)

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TOWN: Kossuth Township

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HOUSE AMENDMENT