

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
119TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 894, L.D. 2313, Bill, "An Act to Increase the Rate of Pay for Forest Fire Wardens"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §8902, 2nd ¶, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 545, §3, is amended to read:

The State shall pay the appointed forest fire warden an annual fee of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500. ~~This~~ The amount of payment shall be made is contingent upon the warden's attendance at forest fire training schools, preparation of an annual forest fire plan for ~~his~~ the warden's town and such reports as the director may require and issuance of fire permits in accordance with section 9321 and policies established by the director. The director, in consultation with representatives of a statewide association of municipal fire chiefs, shall establish a formula to determine the amount of payment received based on these criteria and on other compensation received by the warden for related duties. This fee in no way limits payment to the warden from ~~his~~ the warden's town. ~~His~~ The warden's services for work on actual forest fires, as well as that of deputy forest fire wardens, shall must be paid by the town and at a rate determined by the town.'

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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FISCAL NOTE

The Department of Conservation will require additional General Fund appropriations of as much as \$204,000 annually beginning in fiscal year 2000-01 for the costs of increasing the rate of pay for forest fire wardens. The final annual costs will depend on the formula that will be established and other certain criteria to calculate the payment amount and can not be determined at this time.'

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the original bill. It provides for a forest fire warden to be paid not less than \$100 nor more than \$500, with the amount determined by the warden's completion of specified training and duties. This amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.