

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1992

Legislative Document

No. 2165

S.P. 852

In Senate, January 16, 1992

Submitted by the Department of Conservation pursuant to Joint Rule 24.
Reference to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LUDWIG of Aroostook

Cosponsored by Representative ANDERSON of Woodland, Representative GOULD of Greenville and Representative JACQUES of Waterville.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-TWO

**An Act to Authorize Forest Rangers to Enforce the Rules and Laws
Pertaining to the Bureau of Public Lands.**



2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

4 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §8901, sub-§2, ¶D,** as amended by PL 1987, c. 816, Pt. KK, §14, is further amended to read:

6 D. Enforce all laws relating to forests and forest
7 preservation and, laws relating to the Maine Land Use
8 Regulation Commission and laws and rules relating to lands
9 under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Public Lands;

10 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §8901, sub-§3,** as amended by PL 1987, c. 816,
12 Pt. KK, §15, is further amended to read:

14 **3. Law enforcement powers.** Forest rangers and the state
15 supervisor, for the purpose of enforcing forest and forest
16 preservation laws and, laws of the Maine Land Use Regulation
17 Commission and laws and rules relating to the lands under the
18 jurisdiction of the Bureau of Public Lands, shall have the law
19 enforcement powers equivalent to a sheriff or sheriff's deputy,
20 including the right to arrest violators, prosecute the--same
21 violators, serve criminal process against offenders, require aid
22 in executing forest ranger duties and deputize temporary aides.

24 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

26 In keeping with the existing powers and responsibilities of
27 Maine Forest Service rangers, this bill enables rangers to
28 enforce the rules and laws governing the use of the State's
29 public lands that are under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of
30 Public Lands. This authorization will enable rangers to provide
31 law enforcement assistance to the Bureau of Public Lands on those
32 occasions when such assistance is needed, or when a forest ranger
34 may be the only readily available law enforcement officer.