

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2000

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Legislative Document

No. 2392

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H.P. 1686

House of Representatives, January 10, 2000

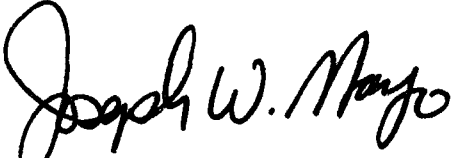
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### **An Act to Provide Safety for Forest Rangers and the Public.**

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Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry suggested and ordered printed.

  
JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative HEIDRICH of Oxford.  
Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford and  
Representative McKENNEY of Cumberland, Senator: FERGUSON of Oxford.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §8901, sub-§§4 and 5** are enacted to read:

6 **4. Training.** Any forest ranger and the state supervisor  
authorized under subsection 3 to perform the duties of law  
enforcement officers must successfully meet and maintain the  
8 training standards and requirements for other state law  
enforcement officers as established in Title 25, chapter 341.

10 **5. Equipment.** Any forest ranger and the state supervisor  
12 who has successfully completed the training required under  
subsection 4 may be issued personal protective equipment,  
14 including, but not limited to, body armor, handcuffs, pepper  
16 spray, firearms, magazines, magazine holders, duty belts,  
ammunition and other related materiel for the protection of the  
public, the forest ranger and the state supervisor.

18 **Sec. 2. 25 MRSA §2801-B, sub-§1,** as amended by PL 1997, c.  
20 678, §21, is further amended to read:

22 **1. Exemption.** The training standards and requirements of  
this chapter do not apply to the persons defined by this chapter  
24 as law enforcement officers who are:

26 A. Employees of the Department of Corrections with a duty  
to perform probation functions or to perform intensive  
28 supervision functions; or

30 B. Agents or representatives of the Department of  
Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Lands, whose law  
32 enforcement powers are limited to those specified in Title  
12, section 1821~~†-ex.~~

34 ~~C. Agents or representatives of the Department of  
36 Conservation, Bureau of Forestry, whose law enforcement  
powers are limited to those specified by Title 12, section  
38 8901, subsection 3.~~

40 **Sec. 3. PL 1999, c. 352, §§3 and 4** are repealed.

42 **SUMMARY**

44 Under this bill, law enforcement officers within the  
46 Department of Conservation, Division of Forest Protection are  
required to have training equivalent to other law enforcement  
48 personnel and are authorized to use personal protective equipment.

50 This bill also repeals the provision that requires the  
Commissioner of Conservation to sell bullet-proof vests, firearms  
52 and related equipment for the use of certain Bureau of Forestry  
employees and the provision that prohibits the commissioner from  
54 purchasing similar equipment.