

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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BNS
PROFS

1

L.D. 297

2

Date: 2/13/14

Majority

(Filing No. H-608)

3

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

4

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

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STATE OF MAINE

6

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

7

126TH LEGISLATURE

8

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

9

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 206, L.D. 297, Bill, "An Act To
Require Forest Rangers To Be Trained in Order To Allow Them To Carry Firearms"

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Amend the bill by striking out all of section 2 and inserting the following:

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'Sec. 2. Law enforcement training for forest rangers policy. The Director of the Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall develop and institute a policy that requires all forest rangers appointed by the director pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 8901, subsection 1 to attend a law enforcement training course at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy as a condition of employment. The policy must exempt those forest rangers who have previously attended a preservice law enforcement training course or a basic law enforcement course at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. The policy must require forest rangers to attend and complete at least 7 hours of firearms classroom work and at least 40 hours of firearms training on a firing range taught by a firearms instructor certified by the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. In addition, forest rangers shall complete at least 8 hours of training regarding the use of force taught by the Office of the Attorney General and at least another 8 hours of training on weapon retention and use-of-force scenarios taught by a Maine Criminal Justice Academy instructor.'

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Amend the bill in section 3 in the 2nd line (page 1, line 17 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "Division" and inserting the following: 'Bureau'

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Amend the bill in section 3 in the last line (page 1, line 28 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "2013" and inserting the following: '2014'

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Amend the bill in section 3 in the last line (page 1, line 28 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "2014" and inserting the following: '2016'

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Amend the bill by inserting after section 3 the following:

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'Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

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35

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF

RCPS

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 206, L.D. 297

1 **Division of Forest Protection Z232**
2 Initiative: Provides funding for firearms, vests and other related equipment in fiscal year
3 2014-15.

4	GENERAL FUND	2013-14	2014-15
5	All Other	\$0	\$60,861
6			
7	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$60,861</u>

8 **Division of Forest Protection Z232**
9 Initiative: Provides funding in fiscal year 2014-15 for training and overtime incurred
10 while forest rangers are training.

11	GENERAL FUND	2013-14	2014-15
12	Personal Services	\$0	\$18,909
13	All Other	\$0	\$7,049
14			
15	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$25,958</u>

16	AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND		
17	FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF		
18	DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2013-14	2014-15
19			
20	GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$86,819
21			
22	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$86,819</u>
23			

24 **SUMMARY**

25 This amendment is the majority report. It removes the requirement that forest rangers
26 complete firearms training by a date certain and instead requires forest rangers with
27 limited enforcement powers under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 8901 to
28 take at least 7 hours of firearms classroom work and at least 40 hours of firearms training
29 on a firing range taught by an instructor certified by the Maine Criminal Justice
30 Academy. In addition, it requires forest rangers to take at least 8 hours of training
31 regarding the use of force taught by the Office of the Attorney General and at least
32 another 8 hours of training on weapon retention and use-of-force scenarios taught by a
33 Maine Criminal Justice Academy instructor.

34 The bill requires the State Supervisor of the forest protection unit in the Bureau of
35 Forestry and the director of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to develop a plan to
36 provide training to forest rangers in the use of firearms, bulletproof vests and other
37 related equipment. The State Supervisor is directed to develop a plan to furnish such

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

10/15/13

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 206, L.D. 297

1 firearms and equipment to those forest rangers for the performance of their law
2 enforcement duties. This amendment changes the date by which the plans must be
3 reported and implemented from November 1, 2013 to November 1, 2014 and from
4 January 1, 2014 to January 1, 2016, respectively. This amendment also adds an
5 appropriations and allocations section.

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FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 297

LR 224(02)

An Act To Require Forest Rangers To Be Trained in Order To Allow Them To Carry Firearms

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment 'A' (H-608)

Committee: Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2013-14	FY 2014-15	Projections FY 2015-16	Projections FY 2016-17
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$0	\$86,819	\$90,013	\$6,387
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$0	\$86,819	\$90,013	\$6,387

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The bill includes General Fund appropriations of \$60,861 in FY 15 and will require the same in FY 16 for the costs of purchasing guns, vests and other related equipment at current state contract prices for use by Forest Rangers and certain other positions. The bill requires implementation of a training program by January 1, 2016 that requires a 64-hour course on firearms training at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. The bill includes a General Fund appropriation of \$7,049 in FY 15 and will require the same in FY 16 for the costs of the training course. The bill will require General Fund appropriations of \$3,194 in FY 16, growing to \$6,387 in subsequent years for ongoing training. The bill includes General Fund appropriations of \$18,909 in FY 15 and will require the same in FY 16 for overtime costs associated with initial training.

It is likely that the Forest Ranger positions will be reclassified in the future due to their increased responsibilities from operating a firearm. This cost is estimated to be \$2,980 for each of the 55 Forest Ranger positions, totaling \$163,900.