



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2020

Legislative Document

No. 1945

H.P. 1389

House of Representatives, January 8, 2020

An Act To Require Forest Rangers To Be Trained at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy

(EMERGENCY)

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.

R(+ B. Hunt

ROBERT B. HUNT Clerk

Presented by Representative NADEAU of Winslow.

Cosponsored by Senator DILL of Penobscot and

Representatives: DOORE of Augusta, FARNSWORTH of Portland, FECTEAU of Biddeford, HICKMAN of Winthrop, LANDRY of Farmington, MARTIN of Eagle Lake, Senators: CHENETTE of York, ROSEN of Hancock.

- 1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not 2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and
- 3 **Whereas,** this legislation needs to take effect before the expiration of the 90-day 4 period in order to ensure that certain forest rangers complete the basic law enforcement 5 training program at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy as soon as possible; and
- 6 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within 7 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as 8 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, 9 therefore,
- 10 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
- 11 Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2803-A, sub-§8-D, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 456, §3, is 12 amended to read:
- 8-D. Training of forest rangers. To establish certification standards and a training
 program for the state supervisor of the forest protection unit of the Bureau of Forestry
 within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and forest rangers
 appointed under Title 12, section 8901. This program must include:
- 17 A. Preservice law enforcement training under section 2804-B;
- B. An additional basic forest ranger training program developed by the state
 supervisor of the forest protection unit of the Bureau of Forestry within the
 Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and approved by the board
 that is specific to the duties of a forest ranger;
- C. In-service law enforcement training that is specifically approved by the board as prescribed in section 2804-E; and
- D. A firearms training program equivalent to a firearms training program of a fulltime law enforcement officer trained at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy that is developed and approved by the board.
- A forest ranger hired on or after July 1, 2019 shall complete basic training under section
 <u>2804-C.</u>
- Forest <u>ranger pilots regardless of hire date and forest</u> rangers <u>hired prior to July 1, 2019</u> are exempt from <u>basic training under</u> section 2804-C, but completion of basic training under section 2804-C exempts a person from the preservice training requirement under paragraph A;
- Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
 legislation takes effect when approved.
- 35 SUMMARY
- This bill requires forest rangers hired on or after July 1, 2019 to complete the basic law enforcement training program at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. It exempts

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- forest ranger pilots, regardless of when they were hired, and forest rangers hired prior to July 1, 2019 from the requirement to complete this basic law enforcement training 2 3 program.