

Date: (Filing No. H-)

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
128TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 9, L.D. 8, Bill, “An Act To Protect Maine's Forest Rangers”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act To Provide Training for Forest Rangers To Carry Firearms'

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

'Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §8901, sub-§1, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 267, Pt. Z, §1, is amended to read:

A. The forest protection unit of the Bureau of Forestry shall employ no fewer than 45 and no more than 50 forest rangers classified as Forest Ranger II to serve as wildfire control specialists and forestry law enforcement officers, and no fewer than 17 forest rangers classified as follows: 3 Regional Rangers, 8 District Rangers, one Forest Fire Prevention Specialist, one Ranger Pilot Supervisor and 4 Ranger Pilots. Each forest ranger and the state supervisor of the forest protection unit of the Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry must, at a minimum, be a graduate of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy's law enforcement preservice program or equivalent meet the training requirements of Title 25, section 2804-L.

Sec. 2. 25 MRSA §2801-B, sub-§1, ¶C, as amended by PL 2015, c. 267, Pt. CC, §1, is further amended to read:

~~C. An agent or a representative of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry whose law enforcement powers are limited to those specified by~~ The state supervisor of the forest protection unit of the Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry or a forest ranger appointed under Title 12, section 8901, subsection 3 and who does not carry a firearm;

Sec. 3. 25 MRSA §2803-A, sub-§8-D is enacted to read:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 **8-D. Training of forest rangers.** To establish certification standards and a training
2 program for the state supervisor of the forest protection unit of the Bureau of Forestry
3 within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and forest rangers
4 appointed under Title 12, section 8901. This program must include:

5 A. Preservice law enforcement training under section 2804-B;

6 B. An additional basic forest ranger training program developed by the state
7 supervisor of the forest protection unit of the Bureau of Forestry within the
8 Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and approved by the board
9 that is specific to the duties of a forest ranger;

10 C. In-service law enforcement training that is specifically approved by the board as
11 prescribed in section 2804-E; and

12 D. A firearms training program equivalent to a firearms training program of a full-
13 time law enforcement officer trained at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy that is
14 developed and approved by the board.

15 Forest rangers are exempt from section 2804-C, but completion of basic training under
16 section 2804-C exempts a person from the preservice training requirement under
17 paragraph A;

18 **Sec. 4. 25 MRSA §2804-L** is enacted to read:

19 **§2804-L. Law enforcement training for forest rangers**

20 Beginning July 1, 2018, all forest rangers and the state supervisor of the forest
21 protection unit of the Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Agriculture,
22 Conservation and Forestry must successfully complete the training requirements
23 established under section 2803-A, subsection 8-D.

24 **Sec. 5. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
25 allocations are made.

26 **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF**

27 **Division of Forest Protection Z232**

28 Initiative: Provides appropriations for the purchase of firearms, ammunition, holsters and
29 lockboxes, and for training and overtime staffing costs associated with a firearms training
30 program for forest rangers.

| | | | |
|----|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 31 | GENERAL FUND | 2017-18 | 2018-19 |
| 32 | Personal Services | \$25,065 | \$0 |
| 33 | All Other | \$71,872 | \$4,225 |
| 34 | | | |
| 35 | GENERAL FUND TOTAL | <u>\$96,937</u> | <u>\$4,225</u> |

36 **Forest Health and Monitoring Z233**

1 Initiative: Provides appropriations for the purchase of firearms, ammunition, holsters and
 2 lockboxes, and for training and overtime staffing costs associated with a firearms training
 3 program for forest rangers.

| | | | |
|---|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 4 | GENERAL FUND | 2017-18 | 2018-19 |
| 5 | Personal Services | \$10,238 | \$0 |
| 6 | All Other | \$29,356 | \$1,726 |
| 7 | | | |
| 8 | GENERAL FUND TOTAL | <u>\$39,594</u> | <u>\$1,726</u> |

| | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 9 | AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND | | |
| 10 | FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF | | |
| 11 | DEPARTMENT TOTALS | 2017-18 | 2018-19 |
| 12 | | | |
| 13 | GENERAL FUND | \$136,531 | \$5,951 |
| 14 | | | |
| 15 | DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS | <u>\$136,531</u> | <u>\$5,951</u> |
| 16 | | | |

17 **SUMMARY**

18 This amendment strikes and replaces the bill. The amendment amends the powers
 19 and duties of the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to include
 20 that the board establish certification standards and a training program for forest rangers
 21 and the state supervisor of the forest protection unit of the Bureau of Forestry within the
 22 Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The training program must
 23 include preservice law enforcement training under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 25,
 24 section 2804-B; an additional basic forest ranger training program developed by the state
 25 supervisor of the forest protection unit of the Bureau of Forestry within the Department of
 26 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and approved by the board that is specific to the
 27 duties of a forest ranger; in-service law enforcement training that is specifically approved
 28 by the board as prescribed in Title 25, section 2804-E; and a firearms training program
 29 equivalent to a firearms training program of a full-time law enforcement officer trained at
 30 the Maine Criminal Justice Academy that is developed and approved by the board. The
 31 training program exempts forest rangers from basic law enforcement training and other
 32 requirements under Title 25, section 2804-C, but completion of the basic training under
 33 section 2804-C exempts a person from the preservice training requirement.

34 The training program satisfies requirements necessary for forest rangers to carry
 35 firearms in the course of their duties. The amendment also specifies that beginning July
 36 1, 2018, all forest rangers and the state supervisor must successfully complete the training

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 9, L.D. 8

1 requirements established under Title 25, section 2803-A, subsection 8-D, which provides
2 the department and the board time to develop and implement the training.

3 The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

4 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

5 **(See attached)**