

CHAPTER 763

(House Bill 1021)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Sections 344 and SECTION 346 of Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition), title "Natural Resources," subtitle "Forests and Parks," subheading "In General," relating to the duties and responsibilities of the Department of Forests and Parks and providing that it shall have authority to accept federal funds for use in Maryland.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Sections 344 and SECTION 346 of Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition), title "Natural Resources," subtitle "Forests and Parks," subheading "In General," be and they are IT IS hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows

344.

The members of said Commission shall serve for terms of five years from June 1, 1941, but of the first members appointed, one shall serve for one year, one for two years, one for four years and one for five years. The Governor shall have the power to remove for cause and any vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term. The members of the Commission shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be reimbursed for necessary traveling expenses and disbursements in attending meetings or performing other official duties. The present State Forester shall become the Director of the Department and his successor shall be appointed by the Commission, in accordance with the merit system law. The Director shall be a person with executive ability and special training and experience in forestry, and a graduate of an accredited school of forestry. The Director shall be the administrative head of the Department, shall appoint such assistants and employees as may be provided for in the budget, subject to the approval of the Commission and under the provision of the merit system law, and shall have charge of all forest and park wardens in the State, aid and direct them in their work; take such action as is authorized by law to prevent and extinguish forest fires, enforce all laws, rules and regulations pertaining to public forests, scenic preserves, historic monuments, parkways, parks and recreation areas, and prosecute for any violations of such laws, rules and regulations; direct the *coordination, planning and* promotion of recreation in cooperation with public and private agencies and the planning, administration and improvement of State parks, scenic preserves, historic monuments, parkways, State recreation areas, forest reserves; collect data relative to forest management; the administration of the forest conservation practices on privately owned forest land and cooperate with landowners as described in Sections 346 and 389 to 400 inclusive of this subtitle. All present personnel of the State Department of Forestry shall be transferred to the new Department.

346.

The Director shall upon request, under the action SUPERVISION of the Department COMMISSION of Forests and Parks, and when-