

title "Forests and Parks," subheading "In General," and to add new Sections 343A and 344A to the said Article, subtitle and subheading of the Code, to follow immediately after Sections 343 and 344 thereof, relating generally to the administration and control of forests and parks in the State, to change the status and duties of the Commission of Forests and Parks, to provide for the administrative officials of the Department of Forests and Parks and for their terms, STATUS, powers and duties.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Sections 343 and 344 of Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition and 1963 Supplement), title "Natural Resources," subtitle "Forests and Parks," subheading "In General," be and they are hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments; and that new Sections 343A and 344A be and they are hereby added to the said Article, subtitle and subheading of the Code, to follow immediately after Sections 343 and 344 thereof, and all to read as follows:

343.

Forests, parks, scenic, historic and recreation areas of the State of Maryland are basic assets. Their proper use, development and preservation are necessary to protect and promote the health, safety, economic and general welfare of the people of the State. It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State to encourage the economic development and use of its natural resources for the improvement of local economy, preservation of the natural beauty and promotion of the recreational interest throughout the State.

The Department of Forests and Parks is hereby created to promote, administer and manage all State owned or leased forests, parks, scenic preserves, parkways, historic monuments and recreation areas, the administration of all laws, rules and regulations relating to forests, parks, scenic preserves, parkways, historic monuments and recreation areas, fire control, roadside trees, the restoration of deforested or denuded areas, and the operation of the State forest nursery.

Forest extension work, as now being done on private property, shall continue under the jurisdiction, supervision and direction of the extension service of the University of Maryland.

[A Commission of Forests and Parks is hereby created to supersede the present advisory Board of Forestry and Regents of the University of Maryland in supervising and directing the affairs of this Department. The Commission shall consist of five members, citizens of the State, to be appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be appointed on the recommendation of the Maryland State Grange, one on the recommendation of the Maryland Farm Bureau, one shall have had practical experience in the business of lumbering, and the other two shall be appointed for their general interest in the advancement of State parks and recreation. The members of the Commission shall select their own chairman.]

343A.

(a) *The Commission of Forests and Parks as presently constituted is hereby continued. It shall consist of five persons, citizens of the State, who shall be appointed by the Governor for terms of*