

administer and manage all State-owned or leased forests, parks, scenic preserves, natural areas, parkways, historic monuments and recreation areas, the administration of all laws, rules and regulations relating to forests, parks, scenic preserves, natural areas, 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.】**

*From and after July 1, 1972, all rights, powers, duties, obligations, and functions heretofore conferred upon or exercised by the Department of Forests and Parks shall be transferred to and exercised by the Department of Natural Resources; and all references to the Department of Forests and Parks appearing in this Code, in other laws of the State, or in ordinances, resolutions, rules, regulations, legal actions, directives, or documents, shall be deemed to mean the Department of Natural Resources.*

#### 343A.

**【(a) The Commission of Forests and Parks as presently constituted is hereby continued. It shall consist of seven person, citizens of the State, who shall be appointed by the Governor for terms of five years each. One member 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 lumbering business; and four shall be appointed for their general interest in the advancement of State parks and recreation. At all times at least one member of the Commission must be a resident of Garrett County. The members of the Commission shall select their own chairman. The Governor shall have the power to remove members for cause. Any vacancy in the Commission shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term. Members of the Commission shall receive no compensation for their services, but they shall be reimbursed for necessary traveling and other expenses incurred in attending meetings.**

**(b) The Commission shall serve as an advisory committee to the Director of the Department. It may make suggestions and give advice to the Director as to the operations and administration of the Department.】**

#### **【344.**

**(a) The office of the Director of the Department is hereby created. He shall be appointed by the Governor, upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Natural Resources. He shall serve under the provisions of Section 234 (c) of Article 41 of this Code; and in the operation and conduct of the Department he is responsible to the Secretary of Natural Resources. The salary of the Director shall be as provided in the annual State budget.**

**(b) It is the intention of the General Assembly that the Director of the Department shall be a person of actual, proven administrative and executive ability and that in addition the Director shall possess professional knowledge and training in forestry or in parks and**