

ARTICLE.

REVISOR'S NOTE: This section is new language derived from Article 66C, section 5. Similar language appears in Title 4 (section 4-202) and Title 10 (section 10-202). It is set forth here to indicate to the Code user that the Secretary, as head of the department, is charged with enforcing the provisions of this Article and department rules and regulations.

1-203. APPOINTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES POLICE OFFICER; BADGES; COMMISSIONS.

(A) APPOINTMENT OF [[WILDLIFE OFFICERS AND OTHER EMPLOYEES]] NATURAL RESOURCES POLICE OFFICERS. — THE SECRETARY MAY APPOINT NATURAL RESOURCES POLICE OFFICERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE MERIT SYSTEM.

(B) ISSUANCE OF COMMISSION AND BADGE.—THE SECRETARY SHALL ISSUE TO EACH PERSON APPOINTED AS NATURAL RESOURCES POLICE OFFICER A COMMISSION AND BADGE STATING "NATURAL RESOURCES POLICE OFFICER".

(C) OBLIGATION TO WEAR BADGE.—EXCEPT WHEN ON DETECTIVE DUTY, EVERY NATURAL RESOURCES POLICE OFFICER SHALL WEAR IN PLAIN VIEW A "NATURAL RESOURCES POLICE OFFICER" BADGE WHEN ACTING IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY.

(D) RETURN OF BADGE AND COMMISSION.—THE BADGE IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE, AND UPON THE TERMINATION OF A COMMISSION OF ANY NATURAL RESOURCES POLICE OFFICER, IT SHALL BE RETURNED WITH THE COMMISSION TO THE SECRETARY.

REVISOR'S NOTE: Subsection (a) presently appears as Article 66C, section 116(a) of the Code. The reference to "wildlife officer" in this and subsequent sections is proposed for deletion because these officers, who were previously charged with enforcing inland fish and game laws, are called Natural Resources Police officers pursuant to the nomenclatural changes made by Chapter 348, Acts of 1972.

Actually, this newly created force also includes the "Marine Police", a unit formerly created under the department's rule-making authority. The provision