

House Bill No. 1354

AN ACT concerning

Consolidation of State Forest and Park Services Rangers and Natural Resources Police - Exemption from Probationary Status

FOR the purpose of establishing an exemption for certain employees of the State Forest and Park Service from the probationary time period for a Natural Resources police officer; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to Natural Resources police officers.

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~

~~Article Natural Resources~~

~~Section 1-203(e)~~

~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

~~(2000 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)~~

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

~~Article Natural Resources~~

~~1-203.~~

~~(e) (1) [All] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, ALL Natural Resources police officers, including persons appointed for training prior to regular assignment as a Natural Resources police officer, shall remain in a probationary status for a period of 2 years from the date of initial appointment to the Natural Resources Police Force. The Secretary may discharge an employee in probationary status for any cause which is deemed sufficient in the sole discretion of the Secretary.~~

~~(2) A PERSON SHALL BE EXEMPTED FROM THE PROBATIONARY STATUS AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION IF THE PERSON:~~

~~(I) WAS A SWORN LAW ENFORCEMENT EMPLOYEE OF THE STATE FOREST AND PARK SERVICE ON MARCH 24, 2004; AND~~

~~(II) WAS APPOINTED AS A NATURAL RESOURCES POLICE OFFICER ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 2004.~~

Notwithstanding the requirements of § 1-203(e) of the Natural Resources Article, a person shall be exempt from a probationary status if the person was a sworn law enforcement employee of the State Forest and Park Service on March 24, 2004, and was appointed as a Natural Resources police officer during the period beginning July 1, 2004, through the end of December 31, 2005.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety,