

SENATE BILL 937

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11r2983

By: ~~Senator Dyson~~ **Senators Dyson and Colburn**

Introduced and read first time: February 25, 2011

Assigned to: Rules

Re-referred to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs and Budget and Taxation, March 2, 2011

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 28, 2011

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources Police Force – Number of Officers**

3 FOR the purpose of stating the intent of the General Assembly that the Natural
4 Resources Police Force employ a certain number of Natural Resources police
5 officers by a certain date; ~~requiring the Governor to include certain amounts in~~
6 ~~the annual budget bills for certain fiscal years to make certain progress toward~~
7 ~~achieving a certain employment goal; authorizing under certain circumstances,~~
8 beginning in a certain fiscal year and continuing each subsequent year, the
9 Natural Resources Police Force to increase the number of cadets and recruits
10 enrolling in the Maryland Natural Resources Police Academy until the size of
11 the force is sufficient to meet a certain mission of the Department; requiring the
12 Natural Resources Police Force to provide certain reports to the General
13 Assembly on or before certain dates; and generally relating to the Natural
14 Resources Police Force.

15 BY adding to

16 Article – Natural Resources

17 Section 1–201.2

18 Annotated Code of Maryland

19 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)

20 Preamble

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 WHEREAS, Chapter 367 of the Acts of 2010 demonstrated the intent of the
2 General Assembly to strengthen enforcement of the State's conservation laws
3 consistent with the public trust doctrine, which affirms government's responsibility to
4 administer, protect, manage, and conserve fish and wildlife for the benefit of the
5 public; and

6 WHEREAS, The lingering economic recession has resulted in a historic
7 reduction in financial support from the General Fund to the Natural Resources Police
8 Force, resulting in fewer Natural Resources police officers in the field and on the
9 waterways and more frequent violation of the State's conservation laws; and

10 WHEREAS, Since 1990, there has been a 50% decrease in the number of
11 Natural Resources police officers in the State; and

12 WHEREAS, The intent of this Act is to increase the number of Natural
13 Resource police officers employed by the Natural Resources Police Force to at least 435
14 officers within the next 10 years, with due regard to the dictates of fiscal practicality,
15 to safeguard the State's legacy of protecting natural resources for the benefit of future
16 generations; now, therefore,

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

19 **Article – Natural Resources**

20 **1-201.2.**

21 **(A) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THE NATURAL**
22 **RESOURCES POLICE FORCE EMPLOY AT LEAST 435 NATURAL RESOURCES**
23 **POLICE OFFICERS BY FISCAL YEAR 2021.**

24 ~~**(B) THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN EACH ANNUAL BUDGET BILL**~~
25 ~~**BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2013 AND ENDING IN FISCAL YEAR 2021 AMOUNTS**~~
26 ~~**SUFFICIENT TO MAKE INCREMENTAL PROGRESS TOWARD ACHIEVING THE**~~
27 ~~**EMPLOYMENT GOAL FOR THE NATURAL RESOURCES POLICE FORCE STATED IN**~~
28 ~~**SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION (1) TO THE EXTENT THAT FUNDS ARE**~~
29 ~~**AVAILABLE AS BUDGET CONDITIONS IMPROVE IN THE STATE, BEGINNING IN**~~
30 ~~**FISCAL YEAR 2013 AND CONTINUING IN EACH SUBSEQUENT YEAR, THE**~~
31 ~~**NATURAL RESOURCES POLICE FORCE MAY INCREASE THE NUMBER OF CADETS**~~
32 ~~**AND RECRUITS ENROLLING IN THE MARYLAND NATURAL RESOURCES POLICE**~~
33 ~~**ACADEMY UNTIL THE SIZE OF THE FORCE IS SUFFICIENT TO MEET THE MISSION**~~
34 ~~**OF THE DEPARTMENT.**~~

35 **(2) ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 2012, AND EACH JUNE 30**
36 **THEREAFTER UNTIL JUNE 30, 2021, THE NATURAL RESOURCES POLICE FORCE**

1 SHALL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246
2 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE PROGRESS THE POLICE FORCE
3 HAS MADE IN ACHIEVING THE GOAL OF EMPLOYING NATURAL RESOURCES
4 POLICE OFFICERS ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
6 July 1, 2011.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.