

OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

To: Members, Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
From: Karen S. Nadeau, Legislative Analyst
Date: February 23, 2021
Subj: **LD 90 An Act To Amend the Removal Process Applicable to the Position of State Supervisor of the Forest Protection Unit of the Bureau of Forestry**

SUMMARY

This bill clarifies that in the event that the Chief Forest Ranger is not reappointed, the Chief Forest Ranger has the right to be restored to the position from which the Chief Forest Ranger was promoted or to a position equivalent in salary grade, without impairment of personnel status or the loss of seniority, retirement or other rights to which uninterrupted service in the previous position would have entitled the former Chief Forest Ranger.

TESTIMONY

Proponents: *Maine Forest Service*

Written only: Maine Forest Products Council; Professional Logging Contractors of Maine; Maine Fire Chiefs' Association

- The State Supervisor of the Forest Protection Division, more commonly known as the Chief Forest Ranger, holds a major policy-influencing position as outlined in Title 5, section 935.
- The Chief Forest Ranger can be appointed or removed by the appointing authority and serves at the authority's pleasure.
- The purpose of the LD is to provide an option if the Chief Forest Ranger came to the position from civil service and is either not reappointed after an election or is removed by the appointing authority.
- The protections in LD are similar to those afforded to Chief of the Maine Warden Service and Chief of Marine Patrol (relevant statutes T. 12 §10103 and T. 12 §6022 respectively attached to MFS testimony).
- LD would simply clarify that if a Chief Forest Ranger is not chosen to continue serving in that position, he or she can resume the position held previously or a position equivalent in salary grade "without impairment of personnel status or the loss of seniority, retirement or other rights."

Opponents: *None*

NFNA: *None*

PRELIMINARY FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: *Not yet received.*