



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 297

H.P. 206

House of Representatives, February 7, 2013

**An Act To Require Forest Rangers To Be Trained in Order To
Allow Them To Carry Firearms**

Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative DUNPHY of Embden.
Cosponsored by Senator LACHOWICZ of Kennebec and
Representatives: CRAY of Palmyra, DION of Portland, FITZPATRICK of Houlton,
GIFFORD of Lincoln, McCLELLAN of Raymond, NADEAU of Winslow, WILSON of
Augusta, WOOD of Sabattus.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. PL 1999, c. 352, §§3 and 4** are repealed.

3 **Sec. 2. Law enforcement training for forest rangers policy.** The Director of
4 the Division of Forestry within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
5 shall develop and institute a policy that requires all forest rangers appointed by the
6 director pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 8901, subsection 1 to
7 attend a law enforcement training course at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy as a
8 condition of continued employment. Forest rangers who are employed by the Division of
9 Forestry on the effective date of this section shall attend and complete the 4-week
10 preservice training course described in Title 25, section 2804-B no later than July 1,
11 2014. Forest rangers who are appointed after the effective date of this section shall attend
12 and complete the basic law enforcement training course described in Title 25, section
13 2804-C. The policy must exempt those persons who have previously attended a
14 preservice law enforcement training course or a basic law enforcement course at the
15 Maine Criminal Justice Academy.

16 **Sec. 3. Firearms training and equipment plans.** The State Supervisor of the
17 forest protection unit of the Division of Forestry within the Department of Agriculture,
18 Conservation and Forestry and the director of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy
19 jointly shall develop a plan to provide training to forest rangers in the use of firearms,
20 bulletproof vests and other related equipment. The State Supervisor shall develop a plan
21 to furnish firearms and equipment to those forest rangers who have completed the
22 training course developed jointly by the State Supervisor and the director of the Maine
23 Criminal Justice Academy for the performance of those forest rangers' law enforcement
24 duties. The plans developed pursuant to this section are subject to the requirements of the
25 Maine Revised Statutes, Title 25, section 2803-B, subsection 1 and must be submitted to
26 the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the Joint
27 Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety for review no later than
28 November 1, 2013. The plans must be implemented no later than January 1, 2014.

29 **SUMMARY**

30 This bill repeals 2 provisions of Public Law 1999, chapter 352 that require the
31 Commissioner of Conservation to sell all bulletproof vests, firearms and related
32 equipment and that prohibit the commissioner from purchasing bulletproof vests, firearms
33 or related equipment without specific authorization by the Legislature. This bill requires
34 the Director of the Division of Forestry within the Department of Agriculture,
35 Conservation and Forestry to develop a policy that requires all forest rangers to attend
36 and complete a law enforcement training course at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy
37 as a condition of continued employment. Forest rangers employed as such on the day this
38 bill takes effect are required to attend the 4-week preservice training course and forest
39 rangers hired after the effective date are required to take the basic law enforcement
40 training course. A forest ranger who has already attended a law enforcement training
41 course at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy is exempt.

1 The bill also requires the State Supervisor of the forest protection unit in the Division
2 of Forestry and the director of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to develop a plan to
3 provide training to forest rangers in the use of firearms, bulletproof vests and other
4 related equipment. The State Supervisor is directed to develop a plan to furnish such
5 firearms and equipment to those forest rangers for the performance of their law
6 enforcement duties. The plans must be submitted to the Joint Standing Committee on
7 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal
8 Justice and Public Safety for review no later than November 1, 2013 and implemented,
9 including furnishing firearms and related equipment, no later than January 1, 2014.