

ASSEMBLY, No. 1686

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 4, 1996

By Assemblywoman FARRAGHER, Assemblymen  
CORODEMUS, T. Smith, Assemblywoman Turner,  
Assemblymen Gusciora, Romano, Charles, Azzolina, Arnone,  
Gregg, Assemblywoman J. Smith, Assemblymen Roma, Garcia,  
Holzapfel and Kavanaugh

1 AN ACT concerning law enforcement and supplementing chapter 1D  
2 of Title 13 of the Revised Statutes.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. As used in this act:

8 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Environmental  
9 Protection.

10 "Department" means the Department of Environmental Protection.

11 "Division" means the Division of Natural Resources Police.

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13 2. There is created in the Department of Environmental Protection  
14 a Division of Natural Resources Police. The division shall consist of  
15 the following units and personnel which shall be transferred to the  
16 division, together with all of their powers and duties, in accordance  
17 with the "State Agency Transfer Act," P.L.1971, c.375 (C.52:14D-1  
18 et seq.):

19 a. The Bureau of Marine Law Enforcement in the Division of  
20 State Police in the Department of Law and Public Safety established  
21 pursuant to P.L.1986, c.150 (C.53:1-11.10 et seq.), with the exception  
22 of any personnel of the Division of State Police who may be assigned  
23 to the bureau;

24 b. The park rangers of the Division of Parks and Forestry in the  
25 Department of Environmental Protection established pursuant to  
26 section 21 of P.L.1983, c.324 (C.13:1L-21); and

27 c. The Bureau of Law Enforcement in the Division of Fish, Game  
28 and Wildlife in the Department of Environmental Protection  
29 established pursuant to R.S.23:2-4.

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31 3. a. The division shall be responsible for enforcing the laws of  
32 this State in its parks, forests and wilderness areas and on its waters.

33 The division shall carry out all responsibilities assigned by law or

1 regulation to those units and law enforcement personnel transferred  
2 into the division pursuant to section 2 of this act.

3 b. The division shall be administered by a superintendent who shall  
4 be appointed by the commissioner from among persons qualified by  
5 training and experience to effectively supervise the work of the  
6 division.

7 c. The superintendent may make appointments to the division, train  
8 members of the division, create such ranks as he deems necessary, and  
9 organize and assign the members of the division in a manner  
10 conducive to efficient management and the effective performance of  
11 the division's assigned responsibilities.

12 d. Personnel appointed or transferred to the division shall be  
13 subject to the provisions of Title 11A of the New Jersey Statutes.  
14 Nothing in this act shall be construed to deprive any person transferred  
15 into the division this act of any tenure rights under the laws concerning  
16 civil service, pension or retirement. A person transferred to the  
17 division under this act shall suffer no reduction in compensation.

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19 4. In accordance with the "Administrative Procedure Act"  
20 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), the commissioner may  
21 promulgate any rules or regulations necessary to carry out the  
22 purposes of this act.

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24 5. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh month  
25 following enactment.

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#### STATEMENT

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30 This bill creates the Division of Natural Resources Police in the  
31 Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The division would  
32 contain two groups of law enforcement officers presently assigned to  
33 other DEP divisions: the park rangers in the Division of Parks and  
34 Forestry and the conservation officers of the Division of Fish, Game  
35 and Wildlife. In addition, the marine police officers currently  
36 assigned to the Division of State Police in the Department of Law  
37 and Public Safety would be transferred into the new division. The  
38 division would be headed by a superintendent appointed by the  
39 Commissioner of Environmental Protection. The division would be  
40 mandated to carry out all responsibilities currently assigned to its  
41 component law enforcement units by law or regulation.

42 The division would be charged with enforcing the laws of the State  
43 in its parks, forests and wilderness areas and on its waters. By  
44 consolidating the functions of three presently disparate agencies  
45 charged with law enforcement in natural and recreational areas, the  
46 division will be able to coordinate their activities and achieve improved

1 operations and efficiencies. The superintendent is authorized to  
2 create such ranks as he deems necessary and to organize and assign  
3 members of the division in a manner that is conducive to efficiency and  
4 fulfillment of the division's responsibilities.

5 Personnel assigned to the division would be subject to the  
6 provisions of civil service and would be guaranteed any compensation  
7 and civil service, pension or retirement rights they currently enjoy.

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Creates Division of Natural Resources Police in DEP.

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