

**AN ORDER ESTABLISHING THE GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON REVIEW OF
NEEDS, RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR EFFICIENCY AMONG
NATURAL RESOURCE LAW ENFORCEMENT**

WHEREAS, a comprehensive review of the mission of Maine Forest Rangers is due; and

WHEREAS, the legislature is currently considering LD 297, An Act to Require Forest Rangers To Be Trained in Order To Allow Them To Carry Firearms; and

WHEREAS, enactment of LD 297 will have significant policy implications; and

WHEREAS, the changes contemplated in LD 297 could dramatically alter the role of government responsibility to the forest products community; and

WHEREAS, LD 297 if enacted will have significant immediate and long term public safety, state personnel, and long term financial implications to Maine citizens; and

WHEREAS, executive branch leadership needs to review and prepare solutions to a wide range of safety concerns expressed by Maine Forest Rangers; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive review of Maine state-wide law enforcement resources and opportunities for cross-training should occur; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Paul R. LePage, Governor of the State of Maine, hereby order as follows:

1. The Governor's Task Force on Review of Needs, Resources and Opportunities for Efficiency Among Natural Resource Law Enforcement is hereby established.
2. The membership of the task force shall consist of (10) ten people, appointed by the Governor, as follows:
 - a. Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, Forestry, or designee;
 - b. Commissioner of the Department of Marine Resources, or designee;
 - c. Commissioner of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, or designee;
 - d. Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, *ex officio*, or designee, as chair;
 - e. Colonel Warden, Maine Warden Service, or designee;
 - f. Colonel Maine Marine Patrol, or designee;
 - g. Chief Forest Ranger, Maine Forest Service, or designee;

- h. One representative of a large landowner (greater than 10,000 acres) engaged in forest management;
- i. One representative of a small landowner (less than 10,000 acres) engaged in forest management;
- j. One Forest Ranger currently employed at the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry familiar with the concerns shared by Maine Rangers.

3. The Task Force shall:

- a. Develop recommendations for short-term and long-term solutions in addressing the role of Forestry as the lead agency in forest fire suppression and forest land protection (law enforcement), including reviewing the Forest Ranger duties, and mission and their need to carry a sidearm. The Task Force shall review safety questions regarding whether arming forest rangers aids in carrying out their duties or increases personal safety;
- b. Review and consider opportunities for cross-training and reduction in redundancy among the Maine Warden Service, Maine Marine Patrol, and Maine Forest Rangers;
- c. Review the core mission of each the Maine Warden Service, Maine Marine Patrol, and Maine Forest Rangers;
- d. Review and consider costs associated with proposed changes;
- e. Consider anything else needed to achieve safety and maximum efficiency among Maine Natural Resource Law Enforcement and the Maine State Police.

4. The Task Force Chair shall:

- a. Identify the process, schedule and information to carry-out the Executive Order.

5. The Task Force shall submit a written report with recommendations to the Governor no later than December 1, 2013, after which the Task Force shall dissolve.

The effective date of the Executive order is July 1, 2013.



Paul R. LePage, Governor