

CHAPTER 905

ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

SUBCHAPTER 1

GAME WARDENS

§10351. Appointment of wardens

1. Qualifications. The commissioner shall appoint as game wardens persons who have qualified under the written code prepared by the commissioner and approved by the State Human Resources Officer within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. D, §3 (REV).]

2. Deputy game wardens. The commissioner may appoint, on a temporary basis, deputy game wardens.

[PL 2009, c. 550, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2009, c. 550, §1 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. D, §3 (REV).

§10352. Office

1. Conflicts. Wardens appointed under the authority of section 10351 may hold no other governmental office from which they receive compensation, except elected positions in municipal or county government.

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

2. Compensation. The compensation of the wardens appointed pursuant to section 10351, subsection 1 is determined under the Civil Service Law. Deputy game wardens appointed pursuant to section 10351, subsection 2 are not entitled to compensation but, at the discretion of the Game Warden Colonel and approval of the commissioner, may be compensated for mandatory assignments and for attendance at mandatory training or other required meetings or classes and reimbursed for approved expenses.

[PL 2009, c. 550, §2 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2007, c. 421, §1 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 550, §2 (AMD).

§10353. Duties and powers

1. Duties. In addition to other duties set out in this Part, a game warden shall:

A. Enforce:

(1) This Part;

(2) All rules adopted by the commissioner; and

(3) The federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, 16 United States Code, Chapter 7, subchapter II, section 703 as amended, and all rules and regulations promulgated in pursuance of that Act; and [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

B. Act as a state fire warden.

(1) A warden shall, when possible, while in and about the woods, caution all participants in outdoor recreation of the danger from fires in the woods and, if possible, extinguish a fire left burning by anyone.

(2) A warden shall, when possible, give notice to all interested parties of a fire raging and beyond the warden's control in order that the fire may be controlled and extinguished. [PL 2023, c. 405, Pt. A, §30 (AMD).]

[PL 2023, c. 405, Pt. A, §30 (AMD).]

2. Powers. In addition to other powers granted in this Part, a game warden or other official described in section 10401 may:

A. Arrest, summons and prosecute a violator of the following:

(1) This Part;

(2) Rules adopted by the commissioner; and

(3) The federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, 16 United States Code, Chapter 7, subchapter II, section 703 and all rules and regulations promulgated in pursuance of that Act.

A game warden or other official described in section 10401 shall, without unnecessary delay, take any person so arrested before the District Court nearest the place of violation; [PL 2011, c. 248, §1 (AMD).]

B. Serve criminal processes on offenders of the law and serve all processes pertaining to the enforcement of this Part; [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

C. Accept personal recognizances in accordance with the following procedures:

(1) A game warden or other official described in section 10401 making an arrest for any violation of this Part and Title 38, chapter 3, subchapter 1, article 5-A, at a point more than 50 miles distant from the nearest District Court having jurisdiction, may accept the personal recognizance of the prisoner in an amount not to exceed \$1,000 for the prisoner's appearance before the nearest District Court on a specified date and a deposit in money to the amount of that recognizance; and

(2) The warden or other official described in section 10401 shall report all those recognizances and forward all those deposits to the court to which the recognizance is returnable.

Recognizances and deposits must be handled by the court in accordance with sections 10202 and 10203; [PL 2011, c. 248, §1 (AMD).]

D. If the warden or other official described in section 10401 is in uniform and has reasonable and articulable suspicion to believe that a violation of law has taken place or is taking place, stop a motor vehicle or watercraft for the purpose of:

(1) Arresting the operator for a criminal violation;

(2) Issuing the appropriate written process for a criminal or civil violation or a traffic infraction; or

(3) Questioning the operator or occupants; [PL 2011, c. 248, §1 (AMD).]

E. In order to protect fish and wildlife:

(1) If the warden or other official described in section 10401 is in uniform, stop a person for the purpose of determining compliance with license, permit, equipment or other requirements or restrictions if the person, at the time of the stop, is:

(a) Engaged in hunting, fishing or trapping; and

(b) Not in or on a motor vehicle; and

(2) Pursuant to policy established by the commissioner, establish checkpoints to stop any type of vehicle and conduct checks to gather statistics concerning hunting, fishing and trapping and to determine compliance with fish and wildlife laws; [PL 2011, c. 248, §1 (AMD).]

F. Stop any watercraft to inspect the craft, its equipment and its documents or certificates; board a watercraft when necessary to enforce chapter 935 or any other provision of this Part regarding watercraft; and order any watercraft ashore to correct a violation or to protect the safety of its occupants, if in the opinion of the warden or other official described in section 10401 their safety is in jeopardy; [PL 2011, c. 248, §1 (AMD).]

G. Stop and examine any all-terrain vehicle to ascertain whether it is being operated in compliance with chapter 939 or any other provision of this Part regulating ATVs, demand and inspect the operator's certificate of registration and, when appropriate, demand and inspect evidence that the operator has satisfactorily completed a training course as required by section 13152; [PL 2011, c. 248, §1 (AMD).]

H. Stop and examine any snowmobile to ascertain whether it is being operated in compliance with chapter 937 or any other provision of this Part regulating snowmobiles; demand and inspect the operator's certificate of registration; and examine the identification numbers of the snowmobile and any marks on it; and [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

I. Do anything otherwise prohibited by this Part if necessary to carry out the duties and powers of the warden or other official described in section 10401. This paragraph does not authorize a warden or other official described in section 10401 enforcing this Part to stop any person, motor vehicle or watercraft except as specifically provided in this section. [PL 2011, c. 248, §1 (AMD).]

[PL 2011, c. 248, §1 (AMD).]

3. Same duties and powers as sheriffs. In addition to specified duties and powers, a warden has the same duties and powers throughout the several counties of the State as sheriffs have in their respective counties, except that a warden's primary responsibility is enforcement of laws protecting fish and wildlife.

A. A warden has the same rights as sheriffs to require aid in executing the duties of their offices. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

B. A warden is entitled to the same fees as sheriffs and their deputies for like services, except before the District Court. All the fees must be paid to the commissioner. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

4. Agents of commissioner. A warden may act as an agent of the commissioner. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

5. Assistance to federal agencies. The Bureau of Warden Service may provide assistance to federal agencies. The director of the Bureau of Warden Service may charge the various federal agencies for these services. Revenues received from these agencies must be allocated for the purpose of funding the cost of providing the services.

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

6. Assistance to other entities and persons. The Bureau of Warden Service may, with approval of the commissioner, provide assistance to other entities, including county and state agencies, municipalities and private organizations, and persons. The director of the Bureau of Warden Service may charge the entities or individuals for these services. The Bureau of Warden Service shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters no later than January 15th of each year concerning the assistance provided to other entities and

persons during the previous calendar year. The report must contain information about the types of services provided, the number of services and the fees charged by the director of the Bureau of Warden Service.

[PL 2007, c. 20, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B54 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2007, c. 20, §1 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 389, §1 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 248, §1 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 405, Pt. A, §30 (AMD).

SUBCHAPTER 2

OTHER ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

§10401. Officials with full powers of game wardens

Sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, police officers, constables, marine patrol officers, Baxter Park rangers, wardens of the Penobscot Indian Nation within the Penobscot Indian Territory, as defined by Title 30, section 6205, subsection 2, wardens of the Passamaquoddy Tribe within the Passamaquoddy Indian Territory, as defined by Title 30, section 6205, subsection 1, and law enforcement personnel employed by the United States Department of the Interior have the powers of game wardens. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

The commissioner shall grant the powers of game wardens outside the Penobscot Indian Territory to wardens of the Penobscot Indian Nation and game wardens outside the Passamaquoddy Indian Territory to wardens of the Passamaquoddy Tribe who have qualified under the written code prepared by the commissioner and approved by the State Human Resources Officer within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, as specified in section 10351. The commissioner may revoke these powers for good cause shown and shall provide a subsequent hearing on the revocation under Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 4, if requested. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. D, §3 (REV).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. D, §3 (REV).

§10402. Officials with certain powers and duties of wardens

1. Watercraft laws. All harbor masters, except those harbor masters whose authority is restricted as described in section 13072 or Title 38, section 1, have the same powers and duties as game wardens to enforce chapter 935 and any other provision of this Part regulating watercraft. [PL 2005, c. 492, §1 (AMD).]

2. Snowmobile laws. All law enforcement personnel of the State, including those of the Bureau of Forestry, and supervisors and rangers of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands and the Allagash Wilderness Waterway have the same powers and duties as game wardens to enforce chapter 937 and any other provision of this Part regulating snowmobiles. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §§5, 7 (REV); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §§23, 24 (REV).]

3. Airmobile laws. All law enforcement personnel of the State, including those of the Bureau of Forestry, have the same powers and duties as game wardens to enforce chapter 935, as it applies to airmobiles, and any other provision of this Part regulating airmobiles.

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).]

4. All-terrain vehicle laws. All law enforcement personnel of the State, including those of the Bureau of Forestry, have the powers and duties to enforce chapter 939 and any other provision of this Part regulating ATVs.

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 492, §1 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §§5, 7 (REV). PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §§23, 24 (REV).

§10403. Enforcement of watercraft laws

Any municipal, county or state law enforcement officer or any harbor master appointed pursuant to section 13072 or Title 38, section 1 has the authority to enforce, in the respective jurisdictions, the watercraft laws in chapter 935 and the rules related to those laws. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).

§10404. New Hampshire officers

Whenever a violation of the marine resources laws or the inland fish and wildlife laws of the State of New Hampshire or the State of Maine is committed or attempted to be committed by any person or persons fishing in any waters or portion of any waters lying between New Hampshire and Maine, any warden or other person who is authorized to make arrests for violations of the marine resources laws and the inland fish and wildlife laws of New Hampshire may make arrests on any part of the waters between New Hampshire and Maine or the shores of those waters and to take the person or persons arrested for trial to the state in which the violation was committed and there to prosecute that person or persons according to the laws of that state. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).

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