



2001 ASSEMBLY BILL 300

April 6, 2001 - Introduced by JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1 **AN ACT to create** 23.10 (1m) of the statutes; **relating to:** the designation and
2 duties of chief warden, deputy chief warden, internal affairs officer, and
3 complaint officer within the department of natural resources.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

The bill is explained in the PREFATORY NOTE provided by the joint legislative council in the bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

PREFATORY NOTE: This bill, prepared for the joint legislative council's special committee on conservation laws enforcement, establishes a direct line authority for the chief conservation warden over regional conservation wardens, conservation warden supervisors, and conservation wardens.

Currently, s. 23.10, stats., provides that the department of natural resources (DNR) shall secure the enforcement of laws that it is required to administer and specifies that the persons who are to enforce those laws are known as conservation wardens. There are no statutory provisions relating to supervision of conservation wardens.

Under this bill, DNR is required to designate a conservation warden as the chief warden and is permitted to designate one or more deputy chief wardens.

The chief warden is required to direct, supervise, and control conservation wardens in the performance of their statutorily required duties. Further, the chief

ASSEMBLY BILL 300

warden is required to designate a person as an internal affairs officer to investigate complaints against conservation wardens when an investigation is determined by the chief warden to be necessary, and to designate a complaint officer who will intervene and work with citizens to resolve complaints against, or involving, conservation wardens.

The line of authority created by this bill for the chief warden is subject to the direction and supervision of the secretary, deputy secretary, and division administrators of DNR, to whom the chief warden is responsible.

1 **SECTION 1.** 23.10 (1m) of the statutes is created to read:

2 23.10 (1m) The department shall designate a conservation warden as the chief
3 warden and may designate one or more deputy chief wardens. The chief warden
4 shall have the duty to direct, supervise, and control conservation wardens in the
5 performance of their duties under sub. (1) and s. 29.921. The chief warden shall
6 designate an employee of the department as an internal affairs officer to investigate
7 complaints against conservation wardens when the chief warden determines an
8 investigation is necessary and shall designate an employee of the department as a
9 complaint officer to resolve complaints against conservation wardens.

10 (END)