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Designation and authority of DNR chief warden

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1999 - 2000 LEGISLATURE

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1999 ASSEMBLY BILL 490

September 28, 1999 – Introduced by JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

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AN ACT to create 23.10 (1m) of the statutes; relating to: the designation and duties of chief warden, deputy chief warden, internal affairs officer and 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 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

ASSEMBLY BILL 490

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.

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

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

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STEPHEN R. MILLER

State of Misconsin

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

100 NORTH HAMILTON STREET 5TH FLOOR MADISON, WI 53701-2037

LEGAL SECTION:

Send to MARK PATRONSKY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

(608) 266-3561 (608) 264-6948

March 14, 2001

MEMORANDUM

To:

Legislative Council - JLC

From:

Robin N. Kite, Legislative Attorncy

Re:

LRB-2761 Designation and authority of DNR chief warden

The attached draft was prepared at your request. Please review it carefully to ensure that it is accurate and satisfies your intent. If it does and you would like it jacketed for introduction, please indicate below for which house you would like the draft jacketed and return this memorandum to our office. If you have any questions about jacketing, please call our program assistants at 266-3561. Please allow one day for jacketing.

JACKET FOR ASSEMBLY _____ JACKET FOR SENATE

If you have any questions concerning the attached draft, or would like to have it redrafted, please contact me at (608) 266-7291 or at the address indicated at the top of this memorandum.

If the last paragraph of the analysis states that a fiscal estimate will be prepared, the LRB will request that it be prepared after the draft is introduced. You may obtain a fiscal estimate on the attached draft before it is introduced by calling our program assistants at 266-3561. Please note that if you have previously requested that a fiscal estimate be prepared on an earlier version of this draft, you will need to call our program assistants in order to obtain a fiscal estimate on this version before it is introduced.

Please call our program assistants at 266-3561 if you have any questions regarding this memorandum.