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SYNOPSIS
Expands law enforcement powers of certain DEP personnel.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 7/1/2003)
AN ACT concerning the law enforcement powers of certain Department of Environmental Protection personnel and amending P.L.1977, c.167 and P.L.1983, c.324.

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

1. Section 1 of P.L.1977, c.167 (C.13:1A-6.1) is amended to read as follows:

1. The Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection shall have the power to vest in the conservation officers of the Division of Fish and Wildlife and the park rangers, park superintendents and law enforcement operation officers of the Division of Parks and Forestry, while such personnel are on duty, at all times the power to arrest without warrant any person violating any law of this State committed in their presence and bring the offender before any court having jurisdiction to receive the complaint of such violation. The Department of Environmental Protection, with the approval of the Attorney General, shall establish and maintain a suitable law enforcement training program for such personnel. (cf: P.L.1977, c.167, s.1)

2. Section 21 of P.L.1983, c.324 (C.13:1L-21) is amended to read as follows:

21. The commissioner of the department shall have the power to vest in State Park Rangers and other personnel of the department, while such personnel are on duty, at all times the power to arrest without warrant any person violating any law of the State committed in their presence and bring the offender before any court having jurisdiction to receive the complaint of such violation. These personnel are hereby authorized to carry firearms while in the actual performance of their official duties at all times. The department, with the approval of the Attorney General, shall establish and maintain a law enforcement training program for such personnel. (cf: P.L.1983, c.324, s.21)

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill would authorize the Commissioner of the Department of

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.
Environmental Protection (DEP) to vest in State Park Rangers and other personnel of the DEP the power to effectuate arrests and carry firearms at all times. The bill also authorizes the commissioner to vest conservation officers in the Division of Fish and Wildlife in the DEP and the park rangers and law enforcement operation officers of the Division of Parks and Forestry in the DEP with these powers. Under current law, DEP employees vested with such powers may effectuate arrests and carry firearms only while they are on duty.