

regulations and limitations as the Director may from time to time see fit to establish, and all appointments shall be made under the merit system in accordance with Article 64A of the Code.

(b) The Director shall have the power to commission or deputize department employees other than wildlife officers of the Department of Game and Inland Fish, who shall be known as deputy wildlife officers, to assist him in more efficiently enforcing the game and inland fish laws of this State.

(c) All employees appointed under this section shall perform such duties as the Director may designate.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That Sections 343, 344(a), 344(d), 344A, 346(a), 347 and 405 of Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition, 1967 Replacement Volume and 1968 Supplement), title "Natural Resources," subtitle "Forests and Parks be and they are hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, all to read as follows:

343.

Forests, streams, valleys, wetlands, parks, scenic, historic and recreation areas of the State of Maryland are basic assets. Their proper use, development and preservation are necessary to protect and promote the health, safety, economic and general welfare of the people of the State. It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State to encourage the economic development and use of its natural resources for the improvement of local economy, preservation of the natural beauty and promotion of the recreational and leisure interest throughout the State.

The Department of Forests and Parks is hereby created, *as a part of the Department of Natural Resources*, to promote, administer and manage all State-owned or leased forests, parks, scenic preserves, natural areas, parkways, historic monuments and recreation areas, the administration of all laws, rules and regulations relating to forests, parks, scenic preserves, natural areas, parkways, historic monuments and recreation areas, fire control, roadside trees, the restoration of deforested or denuded areas, and the operation of the State forest nursery.

Forest extension work, as now being done on private property, shall continue under the jurisdiction, supervision and direction of the extension service of the University of Maryland.

344.

(a) The office of the Director of the Department is hereby created. He shall be appointed by the Governor, [by and with the advice and consent of the Senate of Maryland] *upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Natural Resources*. [His appointment is for an indefinite term, at the pleasure of the Governor.] *He shall serve under the provisions of Section 234(c) of Article 41 of this Code;* and in the operation and conduct of the Department he is responsible [solely] to the [Governor] *Secretary of Natural Resources*. The salary of the Director shall be as provided in the annual State Budget.