

HB 1720 -- Park Rangers

Sponsor: Ruzicka

This bill allows a park ranger, while investigating an incident, accident, or crime that was originally committed within the park ranger's jurisdiction to arrest any person he or she has probable cause to believe has committed a crime, even if the suspect is currently out of the park ranger's jurisdiction. If practical, a park ranger must notify the sheriff or police department prior to making an arrest within his or her respective county or city. Each park ranger must comply with the training and certification requirements of all law enforcement officers under Chapter 590, RSMo.

A park ranger investigating an incident, accident, or crime may request that the prosecuting or circuit attorney apply for and may serve a search warrant anywhere within the state if the sheriff of the county in which the warrant is to be served, or his or her designee, is notified upon application by the applicant of the warrant.

In the event that the Governor issues an executive order declaring a disaster, each park ranger will have statewide law enforcement authority to assist local, state, and federal authorities during emergencies and natural disasters impacting the state.