

State of Arkansas

77th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1989

A Bill

HOUSE BILL

1379

By: Representatives Purdom and Holland

For An Act To Be Entitled

"AN ACT TO GIVE GAME AND FISH COMMISSION WILDLIFE OFFICERS  
THE SAME ARREST POWERS AS OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS;  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated is amended to read as follows:

"16-81-106. Authority to arrest.

- (a) An arrest may be made by a peace officer or by a private person.
- (b) A peace officer may make an arrest:

- (1) In obedience to a warrant of arrest delivered to him;

- (2) Without a warrant, where a public offense is committed in his presence, or where he has reasonable grounds for believing that the person arrested has committed a felony. In addition to any other warrantless arrest authority granted by law or court rule, a law enforcement officer may arrest a person for a misdemeanor without a warrant if the officer has probable cause to believe that the person has committed battery upon another person and the officer finds evidence of bodily harm, and the officer reasonably believes that there is danger of violence unless the person alleged to have committed the battery is arrested without delay.

- (c) A private person may make an arrest where he has reasonable grounds for believing that the person arrested has committed a felony.

- (d) A magistrate, or any judge, may orally order a peace officer or private person to arrest anyone committing a public offense in the magistrate's or judge's presence, which order shall authorize the arrest.

- (e) For purposes of this section, the terms "peace officer" and "law enforcement officer" shall include full-time wildlife officers of the Arkansas

Game and Fish Commission so long as they shall not exercise their authority to the extent that any federal funds would be jeopardized.

(f) The following persons employed as full-time law enforcement officers by the federal government, who are empowered to effect an arrest with or without warrant for violations of the United States Code and who are authorized to carry firearms in the performance of their duties, shall be empowered to act as an officer for the arrest of offenders against the laws of this state and shall enjoy the same immunity, if any, to the same extent and under the same circumstances as certified state law enforcement officers:

- (1) Federal Bureau of Investigation special agents;
- (2) United States Secret Service special agents;
- (3) Immigration and Naturalization Service special agents, investigators, and patrol officers;
- (4) United States Marshals Service deputies;
- (5) Drug Enforcement Administration special agents;
- (6) United States postal inspectors;
- (7) United States Customs Service special agents, inspectors, and patrol officers;
- (8) United States General Services Administration special agents;
- (9) United States Department of Agriculture special agents;
- (10) Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms special agents; and
- (11) Internal Revenue Service special agents and inspectors."

SECTION 2. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

SECTION 3. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

