



SB 1058 – Park Rangers Protections

Extending workers’ comp and disability protections to county/special district rangers

SUMMARY

SB 1058 grants county and special district park rangers the same protections and rights afforded to other law enforcement agencies with regard to workers’ compensation and disability protections.

BACKGROUND

Park rangers across the state serve a variety of functions, including protecting regional parks, wildlife, and the public visiting these areas. Each role carries its own specific risks to the health and wellbeing of the rangers.

In order to undertake these duties, county and special district park ranger departments require the same police academy and subsequent annual update training as mandated through the California Peace Office Standards and Training (POST) identical to county sheriffs and city police officers.

Rangers have the same laws of arrest, the same crime prevention role, and the same expectation to testify in front of superior and municipal courts. They enforce regional parks-specific ordinances and California Vehicle, Penal, and Health & Safety Codes within regional parks.

They enforce infractions, misdemeanors, and felonies that occur within our park systems, including: vehicles in restricted areas, possession of alcohol where prohibited, dogs that are not on leashes, illegal camping, swimming without a life jacket, possession of drugs, and more. They also serve warrants as required.

THE PROBLEM

Despite county and special district park rangers across the state performing a number of peace officer duties and oftentimes facing similar risks, they are not given the same workers’ compensation and disability protections granted to other law enforcement agencies under the California Labor Code.

Currently, only Los Angeles County’s park rangers receive worker’s compensation and disability protections.

Further emphasizing both the overlap in responsibilities and disparity in protections, Sacramento County park rangers have made 531 arrests this year alone, including 141 felony arrests.¹ In fact, some counties rely on deputy sheriffs or police officers to fill their park ranger positions.

THE SOLUTION

SB 1058 amends the Labor Code to extend workers’ compensation and disability protections to county and special district park rangers.

Specifically, 10 counties will join Los Angeles in receiving these worker protections: Kern, Marin, Monterey, Riverside, Sacramento, Santa Clara, Sonoma, San Francisco, Ventura, and Orange. The total estimated number of park rangers who would benefit is under 500.

This bill will safeguard county and special district park rangers on the frontlines, addressing blatant gaps in workers’ compensation and disability protections. County park rangers across the state do the same job as sheriffs, city police, and park rangers in Los Angeles. They have the same training and expectations, but have fewer worker protections – this is unfair, unequitable, and would be remedied by SB 1058.

SUPPORT

- Sacramento County Criminal Justice Employees’ Union (sponsor)
- California Fraternal Order of Police
- Monterey County Park Rangers Association
- Park Rangers Association of California
- Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC)
- Sacramento County Board of Supervisors
- Sacramento County Deputy Sheriffs’ Association

¹ [Sac County Ranger Activity Data](#)

- Santa Clara County Park Rangers' Association

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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