



SB 8 - Sacramento Park Rangers Protection Act

Extending workers' comp and disability protections to county/special district rangers in Sacramento County.

SUMMARY

SB 8 grants the county and special district park rangers of Sacramento the same workers' compensation and disability protections afforded to other law enforcement agencies, including Los Angeles County Park Rangers.

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 annual update training as mandated through the California Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST), identical to county sheriffs and city police officers.

Rangers have the same duties 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 over 633 arrests this year alone, including 171 felony arrests.¹ In fact, some counties rely on deputy sheriffs or police officers to fill their park ranger positions.

THE SOLUTION

SB 8 extends workers' compensation and disability protections to county and special district park rangers of Sacramento County.

This bill will safeguard county and special district park rangers on the frontlines, addressing blatant gaps in workers' compensation and disability protections. The Sacramento County park rangers do the same job as sheriffs, city police across the state, 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 8.

SUPPORT

- Sacramento County Criminal Justice Employees' Union (sponsor)
- County of Sacramento
- Fraternal Order of Police
- Sacramento County District Attorney Thien Ho
- Sacramento County Deputy Sheriff's Association
- Sacramento County Law Enforcement Manager's Association
- Sacramento County Supervisor Patrick Kennedy
- Sacramento County Supervisor Pat Hume
- Sacramento County Supervisor Rich Desmond
- Peace Officers Research Association

¹ [Sac County Ranger Activity Data](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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