



California Surf Lifesaving Association

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Southwest Region - United States Lifesaving Association

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World Wide Web: www.cslsa.org

Legislative Sub-Committee Meeting Report April 12, 2007 Redondo Beach, California

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Alex K. Peabody
Fourth Executive Delegate

At the beginning of the meeting the Fourth Executive Delegate, and sub-committee chair, Alex Peabody led the group in a quick review of currently active legislative issues. The following legislative bills were discussed:

- **AB 124 Meal Breaks (Price)** has been amended by the bills author and specifies that this legislation would only affect *pool lifeguards* and stage assistants:

226.8. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, pool lifeguards and stage assistants employed by the state or any political subdivision thereof, including any city, county, or special district, may not be required by their employer to work during any meal or rest period provided for in Section 512 *required for non-exempt employees by Section 512 or by an order of the Industrial Welfare Commission.*

Recommendation: CSLSA to be neutral on this bill.

- **AB 1458 Vessel Operator Certificates and Funding (Villines)** has been amended, but continues to remain problematic for California State Parks and the funding the department receives to support is vessel recreation facilities and operations throughout the state park system. The appeal for most public safety agencies that deal with vessel operations on reservoirs and along the coast is that the bill would require a vessel operator certification for vessel operators.

Recommendation: Due to the negative fiscal impact on member organization, California State Parks, the CSLSA should be against this legislation until such time as the fiscal impact is eliminated from the bill

- **AB 1355 County Sheriff Duties and Authority (Houston)** would give the sheriff of each county, “the sole and exclusive authority to provide security and safety for the coastlines, harbors, and inland waterways, if any, as specified, except in counties that, prior to July 1, 2008, have vested the duties associated with the security and safety of the county’s coastlines, harbors, and inland waterways to a law enforcement or public safety entity other than the sheriff.”

Under current law, the “sheriff of each county is required to give all possible aid and assistance to vessels stranded on its coast, and to the persons on board.”

The proposed legislation seems intent on extending the authority of the county sheriff as identified in the following from the bill:

It is the intent of the Legislature that the sheriff of each county in this state, as the chief law enforcement officer of the county, **shall have the sole and exclusive authority** for the security and safety of the county’s coastlines, harbors, and inland waterways.

The legislation may be problematic for some agencies in that it does not cite nor recognize the authority extended to the some agencies in situations where there may be concurrent jurisdiction.

It was brought up during the meeting that there were a number of California police agencies against this bill and that it is believed that the bill will not be successful.

Recommendation: CSLSA to remain neutral at this time and continue to monitor the bill.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to reviewing statistical gathering forms and techniques of the agencies in attendance. Rick Gould, who developed the USLA statistics program was present to discuss his views of the challenges in gathering national lifeguard statistics. Carl Drake, retired from California State Parks and experienced in statistics issues was also present.

The following areas of concern were identified by the sub-committee:

- The importance of a national data base of aquatic safety statistics that is accurate and verifiable
- Variations in attendance calculations
- Variations in definitions of statistic criteria
- Lack of data on aquatic rescues and documentation
- Agencies (nationally) that fail to report drownings
- The need to incorporate statistics training into the educational conference portion of the USLA Board of Directors meeting
- The need for the USLA to post statistical forms on the USLA website

Action Items:

- Mr. Peabody to review the submitted forms and report back to the CSLSA executive board.
- That the CSLSA recommend at the USLA Spring BOD meeting:
 - Post statistics forms on the USLA website
 - Request a statistics training component at the next BOD meeting

Meeting adjourned.