

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

3 HOUSE BILL 2596

By: Humphrey

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to state government; amending 74 O.S.
8 2021, Section 2216, which relates to the duties of
9 park rangers; expanding jurisdiction to certain park
10 rangers; and providing an effective date.

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12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

13 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 2021, Section 2216, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 Section 2216. Park Rangers, subject to the policies of the
16 Commission, shall:

17 1. Obtain a commission as an officer or employee pursuant to
18 the certification specified in Section 3311 of Title 70 of the
19 Oklahoma Statutes and by the Division of State Parks;

20 2. Secure the parks and property of the Department and maintain
21 law and order therein;

22 3. Maintain the powers of peace officers except the serving or
23 execution of civil process, have in all parts of the state the same
24 powers with respect to criminal matters and enforcement of the laws

1 relating thereto as sheriffs, highway patrolmen and police officers
2 in their respective jurisdictions and possess all immunities and
3 matters of defense now available or hereafter made available to
4 sheriffs, the highway patrol, and police officers in any suit
5 brought against them resulting from acts done in the course of their
6 employment;

7 4. Possess law enforcement jurisdiction over state parks,
8 including all facilities located therein. Furthermore, park rangers
9 of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department who are certified
10 peace officers pursuant to the provisions of Section 3311 of Title
11 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes, shall have statewide jurisdiction to
12 carry out law enforcement duties when a crime is committed in their
13 presence;

14 5. Serve a probationary period of twelve (12) months. The
15 Division of State Parks Director may extend the probationary period
16 for up to three (3) additional months provided that the employee and
17 the Office of Management and Enterprise Services are notified in
18 writing as to such action and the reasons therefor. At any time
19 during a probationary period the employment of a park ranger may be
20 terminated in accordance with Department procedure and at the
21 discretion of the Director of State Parks. Retention of the
22 employee, after expiration of the probationary period, shall entitle
23 the employee to be classified as a permanent employee;

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1 6. Provide law enforcement protection and enforcement pursuant
2 to the terms of interlocal agreements authorized by the Commission
3 with other entities of government or federally recognized tribes in
4 the state; and

5 7. Remain in the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System if
6 promoted to the Park Manager job family classification series,
7 provided they maintain their certification specified in Section 3311
8 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes, perform the requisite training
9 required by the Chief Park Ranger, and meet all other requirements,
10 policies, and rules of the Department and laws of the state.

11 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.

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13 59-1-5562 JL 12/05/22

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