

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING
AB 2004 (Alanis)
As Amended March 18, 2026
Majority vote

SUMMARY

Adds the Counties of San Joaquin and Fresno to a list of counties in which deputy sheriffs who perform custodial duties are considered peace officers.

Major Provisions

COMMENTS

According to the Author

"AB 2004 addresses the inequitable classification of deputy sheriffs in San Joaquin County assigned to critical custodial duties in county correctional facilities. These officers perform the same demanding and dangerous work as their counterparts in 40 other counties including supervising inmates, ensuring facility security, transporting individuals, and responding to emergencies, but do not receive the same statutory peace officer designation under Penal Code §830.1. This bill includes San Joaquin County deputies in the existing framework, providing consistent legal recognition, POBOR protections, operational flexibility during local emergencies, and appropriate honoring for their service. By aligning San Joaquin with statewide policy, AB 2004 makes Californians safer through more effective use of law enforcement resources in our jails and advances equity by ensuring officers are treated based on their responsibilities rather than county lines."

Arguments in Support

"According to *Fresno County Public Safety Association*, "Correctional officers operate in high-risk environments and routinely respond to complex and volatile situations. This bill appropriately aligns their authority with the realities of the job, enhancing safety for both staff and the public."

"Additionally, this change provides the Sheriff with greater flexibility to deploy trained personnel during emergencies and critical incidents, without altering day-to-day duties."

"Importantly, this legislation does not create new positions or require additional funding, resulting in no fiscal impact to the County."

Arguments in Opposition

According to the *Peace Officers Research Association of California*, "[I]n practice, several counties have attempted to use this provision to expand peace officer authority to correctional officers who do not meet the same training standards as fully sworn deputy sheriffs. Because these positions are often compensated at significantly lower rates—typically 15 to 30% less—there is a strong incentive to use them as a substitute for fully trained deputy sheriffs."

"Expanding this authority to additional counties, as proposed by AB 2004, raises important considerations regarding training standards and the long-term structure of the law enforcement workforce. While we understand the operational needs counties are seeking to address, this approach could blur the distinction between fully trained deputy sheriffs and personnel assigned primarily to custodial roles. Over time, this may lead to increased reliance on positions with different training requirements in roles traditionally filled by deputy sheriffs."

FISCAL COMMENTS

Unknown. This bill is keyed non-fiscal by the Legislative Counsel.

VOTES

ASM PUBLIC SAFETY: 8-0-1

YES: Schultz, Alanis, Mark González, Harabedian, Lackey, Nguyen, Ramos, Sharp-Collins

ABS, ABST OR NV: Haney

UPDATED

VERSION: March 18, 2026

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