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AN ACT
RELATING TO STATE PARKS; PROVIDING STATE PARK LAW
ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WITH AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO
FULL-TIME PEACE OFFICERS; AMENDING A SECTION OF THE NMSA
1978.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 16-2-30 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1935,
Chapter 57, Section 17, as amended) is amended to read:

"16-2-30. POLICE POWERS VESTED IN DIRECTOR AND STATE
PARKS EMPLOYEES DESIGNATED BY THE SECRETARY. --

A. The director of the state parks division and
state parks division employees designated by the secretary
are vested with general police power and shall be state park
law enforcement officers with the authority of conservators
of the peace within state parks and recreation areas. It
shall be their duty to enforce the laws of the state and the
rules and regulations of the energy, minerals and natural
resources department within state parks and recreation
areas. They shall have the further power of forcibly
ejecting from a state park or recreation area a person who
knowingly, willfully or wantonly violates a rule or
regulation of the department within a state park or
recreation area.

B. State park law enforcement officers, in

1 emergency situations, shall be considered on duty and within
2 the scope of their employment for employee benefits when
3 they follow specific instructions from a duly qualified
4 full-time peace officer and aid the peace officer in
5 carrying out his duties. State park law enforcement
6 officers shall respond in emergency situations, subject to
7 the needs of the park to which they are assigned, and they
8 shall have law enforcement powers outside the park so long
9 as they follow specific instructions from the peace officer
10 who requested aid.

11 C. As used in this section, "emergency" means a
12 sudden, unexpected occurrence or an unforeseen combination
13 of circumstances that calls for immediate action without
14 time for deliberation. "

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15 Section 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. --The effective date of the
16 provisions of this act is July 1, 2003. _____
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