

**SENATOR ISADORE HALL, III**  
**35<sup>TH</sup> SENATE DISTRICT**  
**STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 4085 ★ SACRAMENTO, CA 95814**  
**WWW.SENATE.CA.GOV/HALL**

**SB 428 (Hall) Peace Officer Jury Duty Exemption**  
**FACT SHEET**

**Sponsor:** State Coalition of Probation Organizations, Alberto Torrico, (510) 673-7871

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**ISSUE**

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Under existing law, sheriffs, police, UC, CSU, BART police, municipal court marshals and various other peace officers are exempt from jury duty in criminal matters. Probation, parole and correctional officers, while holding similar peace officer status, are not exempt from jury duty in criminal matters.

Probation officers serve as an arm of the court and are responsible for providing pre-sentence reports to the court. As part of this process, probation officers meet with the defendant to discuss a variety of issues related to their case. As such, there is an inherent conflict for probation departments to be responsible for the pre-sentence investigation and report and subsequently the potential supervision of the defendant if sentenced to probation.

While peace officers in many cases are not selected to serve on juries —particularly in criminal cases—probation and parole officers throughout the state continue to be called to go through this selection process. The time spent reporting for jury duty is critical time spent away from their public safety duties and responsibilities.

**SOLUTION**

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SB 428 would exempt probation, parole, and correctional officers from jury duty in criminal matters similar to other peace officers and also enhance the integrity of the jury.

Jurors in California are required to not expose their mind to any outside influences, and the courts demand that all cases must be decided solely on the evidence received in the courtroom. The nature of the day to day duties performed by probation, parole, and correctional officers challenges this requirement. By exempting these officers courts will be able to keep jury pools impartial and expedite the criminal jury process.

## **SUPPORT**

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State Coalition of Probation Organizations (Sponsor)  
Chief Probation Officers of California (Sponsor)  
Association of Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs  
Association of Probation Supervisors  
California Corrections Peace Officer Association  
Chief Probation Officers of California  
Fraternal Order of Police  
L.A. County Probation Officers Union  
Long Beach Police Officers Association  
Los Angeles Police Protective League  
Madera Probation Peace Officers Association  
Monterey County Probation Association  
Orange County Employees Association  
Peace Officers Research Association of California  
Riverside Sheriff Association  
Sacramento County Probation Association  
San Francisco Deputy Probation Officers Association  
San Joaquin County Probation Officers Association  
Shasta County Professional Peace Officers Association  
Supervising Deputy Probation Officer  
Teamsters Local Union # 856  
Ventura County Professional Peace Officer Association

(As introduced 2/25/15)