

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

House Bill 52  
Judiciary

(Delegate Conaway)

Judicial Proceedings

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**Baltimore City School Police Force - Vehicles and Firearms - Report**

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This bill requires the Baltimore City School Police Force to submit a report to the members of the Baltimore City Delegation to the General Assembly beginning July 1, 2017, and every two years thereafter on (1) the condition of vehicles and firearms of the Baltimore City School Police Force and (2) the anticipated needs for vehicles and firearms for the following two years.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2017.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** The bill does not materially affect local government finances or operations. Baltimore City Public Schools can handle the reporting requirement with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The members of the Baltimore City School Police Force must be employees of and be appointed by the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.

Except as specified, a Baltimore City school police officer has all the powers of a law enforcement officer in the State. The officer may act in an official capacity only on the premises of schools and any other property used for educational purposes owned, leased,

or operated by, or under the control of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners. The officer may not act in an official capacity on any other property unless (1) engaged in fresh pursuit of a suspected offender; (2) requested or authorized to do so by the Police Commissioner of Baltimore City; (3) the exercise of power is necessary to facilitate the orderly flow of traffic to and from property owned, leased, operated by, or under the control of the Baltimore City School System; or (4) ordered to do so by the Mayor of Baltimore City.

A Baltimore City school police officer whose permanent or temporary assignment is at a school or on school property may carry a firearm on the premises of the school to which the officer is assigned before or after regular school hours on school days and on days other than school days.

The Civil Service Commission of Baltimore City, in consultation with the Maryland Police Training Commission, must adopt (1) requirements for education, training, human and public relations skills, and moral character that an applicant must meet to qualify for employment as a Baltimore City school police officer and (2) standards for the performance of duties. The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners must adopt regulations governing (1) the operation of the Baltimore City School Police Force and (2) the conduct of each Baltimore City school police officer.

**Background:** The Baltimore City school police force provides security services to the entire school district, or approximately 180 school locations within Baltimore City. The budget of the school police force totaled \$8.5 million in fiscal 2016 and \$7.2 million in fiscal 2017. The school police force currently employs 105 officers. The school police force is a 24-hour full service law enforcement agency, which is certified by the Maryland Police Training Commission. Officers have access to firearms in accordance with commission training requirements.

The Baltimore City School Police Force advises that school police currently have 38 vehicles, and last purchased new vehicles in 2011. Firearms for the police force were last purchased in 2007. According to the police force, all vehicle and firearm purchases are made directly by city schools.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Baltimore City; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 27, 2017  
fn/hlb Third Reader - March 6, 2017

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