

May 16, 2025

The Honorable Bill Ferguson
President of the Senate of Maryland
H-107 State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear President Ferguson,

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I hereby veto Senate Bill 455 – *Security Guard Agencies – Special Police Officers – Application for Appointment*.

This legislation would authorize an individual holding a valid license as a security guard agency to apply for the appointment of special police officers for the purpose of protecting property owned or leased by its clients.

Under current law, the Governor may appoint and deputize an individual as a special police officer. The Maryland Secretary of State Police is responsible for processing the applications and conducting investigations while the Secretary of State is responsible for issuing the commissions – which historically has been a power delegated by the Governor to the Secretary of State.

The Governor's power to appoint and deputize special police officers should not be taken lightly – and before we arbitrarily expand eligibility for special police forces, I believe that this appointment process deserves a more thorough examination in its entirety.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Senate Bill 455.

Sincerely,

Wes Moore
Governor