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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
1987-2020
27th Legislative District



The Senate of Maryland
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Testimony of Senator Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
**Senate Bill 561 - Department of General Services – Jurisdiction and Maryland
Capitol Police**

Chairman Smith and Committee Members:

Following the merger of the Maryland Capitol Police (MCP) of the Department of General Services (DGS) with the Department of Labor Police Force during the 2019 Legislative Session, Senate Bill 561 expands the jurisdiction of the MCP.

Since the Departments came together, MCP found that there was limited jurisdiction for enforcement of State laws at several Department of Labor properties. This bill will increase the authority of DGS and MCP to all State-owned or State-leased buildings and grounds as well as to the surrounding area 1,000 feet in any direction from the boundary of those buildings and grounds. Additionally, under this legislation the Secretary of General Services must appoint the Chief of MCP, who will serve at the pleasure of the Secretary. The Chief will oversee all of the operations of the MCP.

This legislation will allow MCP to more effectively resolve crime committed on state property and will create operational efficiency and accountability. For these reasons, I respectfully ask the Judicial Proceedings Committee for a favorable report on Senate Bill 561.