



**ST JOHN'S  
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*Office of Public Safety*

February 1, 2026

Chair William C. Smith, Jr.  
Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Maryland Senate  
2 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland  
Re: Support for Senate Bill 298 – Maryland Capitol Police Statewide  
Jurisdiction

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

On behalf of St. John's College Office of Public Safety, I write to express our support for Senate Bill 298, legislation that provides the Maryland Capitol Police with statewide jurisdiction while establishing clear notification requirements and coordination procedures with local and campus law enforcement agencies.

St. John's College has been part of the Annapolis community for over 230 years, and our historic campus in the heart of Maryland's capital city operates in close proximity to numerous state government facilities, including the State House, legislative office buildings, and executive agencies. As certified Campus Police officers serving under Maryland Public Safety Article Title 3-Subtitle 3, appointed by the Governor of the State of Maryland, our officers share a common commitment with the Maryland Capitol Police to protecting public safety in Annapolis while respecting the jurisdictional responsibilities of multiple law enforcement agencies operating in our community.

Senate Bill 298 promotes the kind of collaborative, coordinated approach to public safety that benefits all law enforcement agencies in Annapolis. The legislation's notification requirements, which mandate that the Maryland Capitol Police inform local law enforcement agencies when exercising their expanded statewide authority, ensure transparency and facilitate the coordination that is essential when multiple jurisdictions operate in close proximity. As a campus law enforcement agency and member of the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators, we understand the importance of clear communication channels and well-defined roles among law enforcement partners.

From an operational perspective, this legislation provides important clarity regarding the Maryland Capitol Police's authority to investigate and enforce


criminal laws while preserving cooperative relationships with local and campus law enforcement. The expansion of their protective perimeter from 1,000 feet to 2,000 feet around state facilities reflects the practical security requirements in a dense urban environment like downtown Annapolis, where our campus, state facilities, and municipal areas intersect. The bill's requirement that the Maryland Capitol Police exercise their statewide authority in accordance with adopted regulations, policies, procedures, and memoranda of understanding creates opportunities for formalizing coordination protocols that will enhance public safety for the entire Annapolis community.

The mission of St. John's College Office of Public Safety is to protect our campus, serve our college community, and preserve the good order of the college. Achieving this mission requires strong working relationships with the Annapolis Police Department, Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office, and other law enforcement agencies with whom we interact regularly. Senate Bill 298 strengthens these partnerships by establishing formal notification procedures and coordination mechanisms that will improve situational awareness, enhance response capabilities, and promote more effective public safety operations throughout our shared jurisdiction.

For these reasons, St. John's College Office of Public Safety respectfully supports Senate Bill 298 and encourages the Judicial Proceedings Committee to give it favorable consideration. This legislation represents sound policy that will enhance security for state facilities and officials while promoting the collaborative approach to law enforcement that best serves our community.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation and your continued commitment to public safety in Maryland. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Respectfully,



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