

SB298

Uploaded by: Darren Popkin

Position: FAV



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith Jr., Chair and
Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Darren Popkin, Executive Director, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Samira Jackson, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: February 5, 2026

RE: **SB 298 - Department of General Services - Maryland Capitol Police - Statewide
Jurisdiction**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT SB 298**. We see the Maryland Capitol Police as partners, and this bill clarifies and expands the authority of the Maryland Capitol Police to carry out their public safety responsibilities. This legislation recognizes the important role the Capitol Police play in protecting State facilities, officials, employees, and visitors, and provides clear statutory authority to perform their duties as needed in the interest of public safety.

Maryland's Police Chiefs and Sheriffs value strong coordination and mutual respect among all law enforcement agencies. We trust the Maryland Capitol Police to exercise the responsibilities outlined in this bill professionally and in coordination with local and State law enforcement partners.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT SB 298** and respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE** committee report.

Bill 298 Final Draft 2 (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Everett Sesker

Position: FAV



Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office

SHERIFF EVERETT L. SESKER
Chief Deputy James Williams
8 Church Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Chairman William Smith
Judicial Proceedings Committee
Maryland Senate

Dear Chairman Smith,

As the Sheriff of Anne Arundel County, I write to express my strong support for Senate Bill 298, which would grant statewide jurisdiction to the Department of General Services, Maryland Capitol Police (MCP).

This legislation would allow MCP to operate uniformly across Maryland, ensuring continuity in the investigation of crimes, traffic offenses, and other incidents occurring on properties within their primary jurisdiction.

At a time when many law enforcement agencies are challenged by personnel shortages, Senate Bill 298 offers a strategic advantage by establishing concurrent jurisdiction. While traveling between areas of responsibility, MCP officers would have the authority to deter, stop, and detain individuals engaged in criminal activity until local units arrive. This enhanced capability would significantly strengthen public safety and reinforce Maryland's statewide law enforcement network.

Additionally, all state, county, and municipal law enforcement agencies in Maryland adhere to the rigorous training standards established by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission and are subject to the Maryland Police Accountability Act. This oversight ensures consistent, professional service whenever MCP exercises authority within a concurrent jurisdiction.

I look forward to the passage of this legislation and to the continued partnership with Colonel Wilson and the Maryland Capitol Police.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Everett Sesker
Anne Arundel County

SB 298.MD Capitol Police Statewide Jurisdiction -

Uploaded by: John Woolums

Position: FAV

SB 298 - Department of General Services - Maryland Capitol Police - Statewide Jurisdiction

Position: Support

Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Date: February 5, 2026

From: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Department of General Services (DGS) requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 298. This departmental bill will significantly improve the law enforcement capabilities of the Maryland Capitol Police (MCP) by granting statewide jurisdiction for MCP law enforcement activities and expanding MCP's responsibility for the security of state-owned and leased properties.

This legislation will ensure that all MCP officers are fully authorized to enforce Maryland's criminal laws statewide. This scope of authority is essential to allowing MCP to fully engage in all aspects of law enforcement related to their roles as sworn law enforcement officers. Routine police functions, such as investigations, arrests, serving warrants and summonses, and welfare checks, are unduly impeded under current law. SB 298 fills a critical gap in MCP's ability to provide professional law enforcement services to benefit all Marylanders statewide.

SB 298 will significantly enhance MCP's role in partnering with other state and local law enforcement agencies. All Maryland law enforcement agencies face ongoing staffing challenges. Granting MCP statewide jurisdiction will enable MCP to function as a force multiplier, providing direct assistance during demonstrations, investigations, and major events involving state assets, thereby reducing strain on local and county agencies.

The public safety and law enforcement functions of MCP are inherently statewide in scope. Threats to government operations, facilities, and personnel do not respect jurisdictional boundaries. Without statewide authority, MCP is often forced to rely on jurisdictional handoffs, lacking the power to conduct follow-up investigations, act on credible intelligence, and execute enforcement actions. In these ways, the lack of statewide authority creates an unnecessarily fragmented threat response, jeopardizing the safety of state employees and Maryland citizens.

By providing statewide jurisdiction, SB 298 would allow MCP to more seamlessly contribute its professional law enforcement personnel and resources to expand the scope of public safety and security services benefiting all Marylanders. All MCP officers meet Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission requirements. MCP maintains advanced capabilities, including crisis intervention, crisis negotiation, emergency response, active assailant response, full-service K-9 teams, body-worn cameras, mobile data terminals, a centralized dispatch center with statewide camera access, and a dedicated internal affairs function. As a highly trained, professional police force, over the past five years, MCP has managed more than 332,853 visitor interactions, conducted over 432,700 patrol and premises checks, and completed nearly 6,300 traffic and enforcement-related actions.

Interagency communication and collaboration are key to successful policing. This legislation includes robust interagency notice provisions, reflecting the need for deliberate collaboration and prompt communication with other State and local law enforcement agencies. SB 298 clarifies that MCP officers' statewide law enforcement activities will be conducted in a manner requiring notice to all other State and local law enforcement agencies. In addition to the law enforcement entities named in the bill, the cross-reference to §1-101 of the Public Safety Article ensures that all state and local law enforcement agencies receive timely notice of MCP actions.

MCP already engages in many cooperative law enforcement operations to assist local law enforcement agencies, such as the Annapolis Police Department and the Baltimore City Police Department, by providing additional officers to fully staff the security needs of large public gatherings and events. In the past five years, MCP has managed 472 demonstrations and rallies in Annapolis and 44 additional demonstrations in Baltimore. In 2025 alone, MCP handled 85 rallies, confirming a sustained upward trend in public order complexity and operational demand. By providing statewide jurisdiction, SB 298 would allow MCP to more seamlessly share resources to ensure that public safety and security services are provided at public events.

Establishing statewide jurisdiction will enhance MCP's authority to engage in the full range of law enforcement activities without the increased risks that can arise when operating outside the department's statutory jurisdiction. SB 298's clarification of authority reduces MCP exposure to personal and State liability, including potential costs associated with civil litigation, claims, or enforcement actions challenging departmental actions on jurisdictional grounds. Clearly establishing statewide jurisdiction and enhancing interagency notice requirements are risk-reducing facets of SB 298 that represent a potential long-term fiscal benefit to the State.

This legislation repeals outdated provisions of statute governing the roles and responsibilities of MCP at specific locations, including the State Center in Baltimore City, and the Annapolis State House and Legislative and Executive complex. Today, MCP is responsible for public safety and security across an array of widely dispersed state-owned and leased properties.

SB 298 updates the law by expanding the perimeter of safety and security surrounding these properties from 1,000 to 2,000 feet. MCP is seeking this update to facilitate the seamless operation of routine law enforcement not only on premises but also in the broader vicinity of state properties. SB 298 is necessary to meet the evolving security demands of Maryland's government, protect state employees and Maryland citizens wherever state business occurs, and ensure continuity of government operations in an increasingly complex threat environment.

The areas surrounding state offices are often in urban settings with high volumes of vehicle and pedestrian traffic. In Baltimore City and Annapolis, for example, the increased perimeter will improve MCP's ability to monitor and take action, in conjunction with local law enforcement agencies, when persons of interest or threats of violence are in the vicinity of state offices. Increasing the perimeters will benefit joint operations for public events and joint training exercises, as well as the updating of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) between MCP and the Annapolis and Baltimore City Police Departments. Safety and security of state operations and services are critical for our dedicated state personnel and the communities where state facilities are located.

For these reasons, DGS urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 298.

SB 298.MD Capitol Police Statewide Jurisdiction -

Uploaded by: John Woolums

Position: FAV

SB 298 - Department of General Services - Maryland Capitol Police - Statewide Jurisdiction

Position: Support

Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Date: February 5, 2026

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For these reasons, DGS respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 298.

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Uploaded by: Michael Boston

Position: FAV



**ST JOHN'S
College**

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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,



Michael A. Boston

Director of Public Safety & Emergency Management
St. John's College Office of Public Safety
60 College Avenue
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-295-6931
michael.boston@sjc.edu

SB298

Uploaded by: Michael Jackson

Position: FAV



WES MOORE
GOVERNOR

ARUNA MILLER
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF MARYLAND
MARYLAND STATE POLICE
1201 REISTERSTOWN ROAD
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410-486-3101
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COLONEL
MICHAEL A. JACKSON
ACTING SUPERINTENDENT

February 4, 2026

Secretary Atif T. Chaudhry
Maryland Department of General Services
301 W. Preston St.
Baltimore, MD 21201

Dear Secretary Chaudhry:

Thank you for collaborating on SB298/HB338. The Maryland Department of State Police (MDSP) is a proud partner and appreciates you working with our executive staff to address concerns. As a result, the MDSP is supportive of the bill as amended.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office by email at msp.superintendent@maryland.gov or by phone at 410-653-4219.

Sincerely,

Colonel Michael A. Jackson
Acting Superintendent

SB298

Uploaded by: Orlando Lilly

Position: FAV



Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Josh Kurtz, Secretary
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

February 4, 2026

Chair William C. Smith, Jr.
Judicial Proceedings Committee
Maryland Senate
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 the Maryland Natural Resources Police, I write to express our support for Senate Bill 298, which would grant statewide jurisdiction to the Maryland Capitol Police while establishing clear notification and coordination requirements with other state and local law enforcement agencies.

As a statewide law enforcement agency with broad jurisdictional responsibilities, the Natural Resources Police recognize the importance of clearly defined authority and structured interagency coordination. Senate Bill 298 reflects these principles by addressing operational needs while preserving communication and collaboration among Maryland's law enforcement partners.

We appreciate the bill's notification provisions, which promote transparency, professional courtesy, and situational awareness among law enforcement agencies. These requirements support effective information sharing and help reduce the risk of duplicative efforts or operational conflict when multiple agencies have overlapping public safety responsibilities.

From an operational perspective, the bill provides clarity regarding the Maryland Capitol Police's authority to protect state officials, employees, and facilities beyond traditional jurisdictional boundaries. At the same time, the requirement that this authority be exercised in accordance with established policies, procedures, and memoranda of understanding reinforces a collaborative approach to public safety and respects the distinct roles of Maryland's law enforcement agencies.

The Natural Resources Police have a history of working cooperatively with the Maryland Capitol Police and other state partners on matters of mutual concern. We view Senate Bill 298 as a framework that supports continued coordination and reinforces existing professional relationships rather than altering them.

For these reasons, the Maryland Natural Resources Police respectfully supports Senate Bill 298 and appreciates the Committee's consideration of this legislation.

Thank you for your time and attention. Please feel free to contact our office if additional information would be helpful.

Respectfully,



Colonel Orlando D. Lilly

Superintendent

Maryland Natural Resources Police



MCPA_MSA SB 298-Maryland Capitol Police-Jurisdicti

Uploaded by: Samira Jackson

Position: FAV



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith Jr., Chair and
Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Darren Popkin, Executive Director, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Samira Jackson, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: February 5, 2026

RE: **SB 298 - Department of General Services - Maryland Capitol Police - Statewide
Jurisdiction**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT SB 298**. We see the Maryland Capitol Police as partners, and this bill clarifies and expands the authority of the Maryland Capitol Police to carry out their public safety responsibilities. This legislation recognizes the important role the Capitol Police play in protecting State facilities, officials, employees, and visitors, and provides clear statutory authority to perform their duties as needed in the interest of public safety.

Maryland's Police Chiefs and Sheriffs value strong coordination and mutual respect among all law enforcement agencies. We trust the Maryland Capitol Police to exercise the responsibilities outlined in this bill professionally and in coordination with local and State law enforcement partners.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT SB 298** and respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE** committee report.

SB298

Uploaded by: Shaneka Henson

Position: FAV

SHANEKA HENSON
Legislative District 30
Anne Arundel County

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Joint Committee on Children,
Youth, and Families



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Shaneka.Henson@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SPONSOR TESTIMONY

Senate Bill 298

**Department of General Services – Maryland Capitol Police –
Statewide Jurisdiction**

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher JPR Committee members

For the record, I am Shaneka Henson, representing District 30 in Anne Arundel County and member of the JPR Committee

I am pleased to present Senate Bill 298 - Department of General Services – Maryland Capitol Police - Statewide Jurisdiction.

This bill provides for the DGS to enhance their statewide jurisdiction over and full police authority for the enforcement of criminal laws, and the parking and motor vehicle laws as to the operation, maintenance, and protection for:

- (1) State-owned or State-leased buildings and grounds and extending to the surrounding area that encompasses 2,000 feet in any direction from the boundary of those buildings, and
- (2) other public improvements or grounds designated by law or by BPW.

The purpose in extending this role is to improve overall improve law enforcement capabilities and enhancing the overall capacity of the MCP for greater security of state-owned and leased properties – and broaden the MCP’s partnering role with other state and local enforcement organizations.

With us today to explain move about the legislation and answer questions are Secretary Chaudhry and Deputy Chief of Police Glend McGuire. After hearing the information, I respectfully urge a favorable report of the committee.