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**By: Prince George's County and Montgomery County Delegations**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 1996

Assigned to: Judiciary

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission - Police Force**  
3 **PG/MC 20-96**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC)  
5 police force; limiting the law enforcement powers of WSSC police officers to certain  
6 property; specifying certain conditions under which WSSC police officers may  
7 exercise law enforcement powers on other property; requiring the WSSC to adopt  
8 certain regulations; conforming certain provisions of law relating to law  
9 enforcement officers; making certain stylistic changes; and generally relating to the  
10 WSSC police force.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
12 Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments  
13 Section 594B(a) and (b)  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
17 Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments  
18 Section 594B(g)(14) and (15) and 727(b)(7)  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

21 BY adding to  
22 Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments  
23 Section 594B(g)(16)  
24 Annotated Code of Maryland  
25 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

26 BY adding to  
27 Article 29 - Washington Suburban Sanitary District  
28 Section 18-108  
29 Annotated Code of Maryland  
30 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

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1 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
2 Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments  
3 Section 4-201(a)(8)(i)11. and 12.  
4 Annotated Code of Maryland  
5 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

6 BY adding to  
7 Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments  
8 Section 4-201(a)(8)(i)13.  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
12 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

13 **Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments**

14 594B.

15 (a) A police officer may arrest without a warrant any person who commits, or  
16 attempts to commit, any felony or misdemeanor in the presence of, or within the view of,  
17 such officer.

18 (b) A police officer who has probable cause to believe that a felony or  
19 misdemeanor is being committed in the officer's presence or within the officer's view, may  
20 arrest without a warrant any person whom the officer may reasonably believe to have  
21 committed such offense.

22 (g) For purposes of this section, the term "police officer" means any person who,  
23 in an official capacity, is authorized by law to make arrests and who is:

24 (14) A MEMBER OF THE Housing Authority of Baltimore City PoliceForce;  
25 [or]

26 (15) A member of the Crofton Police Department; OR

27 (16) A MEMBER OF THE WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY  
28 COMMISSION POLICE FORCE.

29 727.

30 (b) "Law enforcement officer" means any person who, in an official capacity, is  
31 authorized by law to make arrests and who is a member of one of the following law  
32 enforcement agencies:

33 (7) The police department, bureau, or force of any bicounty agency or the  
34 University of Maryland, EXCEPT THE WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY  
35 COMMISSION;

3

1 **Article 29 - Washington Suburban Sanitary District**

2 18-108.

3 (A) THERE IS A WSSC POLICE FORCE.

4 (B) (1) A WSSC POLICE OFFICER MAY EXERCISE THE POWERS OF A LAW  
5 ENFORCEMENT OFFICER IN THE STATE ON PROPERTY THAT IS OWNED, LEASED,  
6 OPERATED BY, OR UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE WSSC.

7 (2) A WSSC POLICE OFFICER MAY NOT EXERCISE LAW ENFORCEMENT  
8 POWERS ON ANY OTHER PROPERTY UNLESS THE OFFICER IS:

9 (I) ENGAGED IN FRESH PURSUIT OF A SUSPECTED OFFENDER;

10 (II) REQUESTED OR AUTHORIZED TO DO SO IN A POLITICAL  
11 SUBDIVISION BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OR CHIEF POLICE OFFICER OF THE  
12 SUBDIVISION;

13 (III) NEEDED FOR THE ORDERLY FLOW OF TRAFFIC TO AND FROM  
14 PROPERTY OWNED, LEASED, OPERATED BY, OR UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE WSSC;  
15 OR

16 (IV) ORDERED TO DO SO BY THE GOVERNOR.

17 (C) (1) IN CONSULTATION WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE  
18 DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE AND THE MARYLAND POLICE TRAINING  
19 COMMISSION, THE WSSC SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION,  
20 INCLUDING STANDARDS FOR CHARACTER, TRAINING, EDUCATION, HUMAN  
21 RELATIONS, EXPERIENCE, AND JOB PERFORMANCE FOR WSSC POLICE OFFICERS.

22 (2) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE WSSC SHALL ADOPT  
23 STANDARDS THAT ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE.

24 (3) STANDARDS ADOPTED ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 1, 1996 ON MINIMUM  
25 HIRING QUALIFICATIONS OF WSSC POLICE OFFICERS DO NOT AFFECT THE STATUS  
26 OF ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO WAS A QUALIFIED WSSC SPECIAL POLICEMAN ON  
27 OCTOBER 1, 1996.

28 **Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments**

29 4-201.

30 (a) As used in this section:

31 (8) (i) "Police officer" means a person who has the authority to enforce  
32 the general criminal laws of this State and is a member of any of the following law  
33 enforcement units:

34 11. Baltimore City School Police Force; [or]

35 12. Crofton Police Department; OR

36 13. THE WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION  
37 POLICE FORCE.

1           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2 October 1, 1996.