

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 361

(Washington County Delegation)

Judiciary

Judicial Proceedings

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**Public Safety - Hagerstown Community College Police Force**

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This bill grants the status of police officer and law enforcement officer to members of the Hagerstown Community College (HCC) police force, making them subject to the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights and eligible for certification as police officers by the Maryland Police Training Commission (PTC).

The HCC Board of Trustees must adopt standards, qualifications, and prerequisites for HCC police officers in consultation with the Secretary of State Police and PTC. To the extent practicable, those standards should be similar to those of the State Police. The board is also authorized to adopt regulations governing the operation and conduct of HCC police officers.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. Consultations from the State Police and training by PTC will be handled with existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** Any additional costs for training or equipment will be handled with the existing budgeted resources of HCC and Washington County.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law/Background:** HCC security personnel do not have the powers of police officers. To become officers, they must successfully complete police officer training and be granted police officer powers in State law, which this bill would accomplish. PTC trains and certifies police officers and also approves and certifies police training

academies that meet the commission's minimum standards for police officer training. The Western Maryland Police Training Academy, which is certified by the State commission, is located on the campus of HCC.

Chapter 417 of 2006 similarly established a police force for the Baltimore City Community College, a State-funded institution. HCC is funded from State funds, from Washington County, and from tuition and fees.

**Local Expenditures:** The HCC campus police unit consists of seven members, including a chief of the unit. Only the chief is currently certified as a law enforcement officer. Contingent upon the passage of this bill, HCC would send two additional members of the campus police unit for training and certification by the Western Maryland Police Training Academy. In addition, all future new hires for this unit by HCC would be sent for training and certification. Any associated incidental costs for training or equipment of current or future members of an HCC police force would be handled with the existing budgeted resources of HCC and Washington County.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Washington County, City of Hagerstown, Maryland Higher Education Commission, Department of State Police, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 8, 2009  
ncs/hlb

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