

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 1640  
Judiciary

(Delegate Anderson, *et al.*)

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Morgan State University - Police Force Powers - Authorization

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This bill expands the authorization for the Morgan State University Police Force to exercise police powers outside property that is owned, leased, operated by, or under the control of the university when requested or authorized to do so by the Mayor of Baltimore City or the Commissioner of the Baltimore Police Department. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020.**

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The bill is not anticipated to materially affect State government finances. To the extent the university uses the expanded authority provided by the bill, any costs incurred can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** While Baltimore City may benefit from the expanded authority provided to Morgan State University, the bill is not anticipated to materially affect Baltimore City government finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** A Morgan State University Police Force officer has the powers granted to a peace and police officer. However, a university police officer may exercise these powers only on property that is owned, leased, operated by, or under the control of the university. The police officer may not exercise these powers on any other property unless:

- engaged in fresh pursuit of a suspected offender;

- necessary to facilitate the orderly flow of traffic to and from property owned, leased, operated by, or under the control of the university; or
- ordered to do so by the Governor.

In consultation with the Secretary of State Police and the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission, the Board of Regents must adopt standards, qualifications, and prerequisites of character, training, education, human and public relations, and experience for the university police officers, including standards for the performance of their duties.

To the extent practicable, the Board of Regents must adopt standards that are similar to the standards adopted for the Department of State Police. The Board of Regents must adopt rules and regulations governing the operation and conduct of the Morgan State University Police Force and of university police officers.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Baltimore City; Morgan State University; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 6, 2020  
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