

SENATE BILL 729

E4, L1

5lr2711
CF 5lr2710

By: **Charles County Senators**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2025

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Special Police Officers – County Government – Protection of Employees and**
3 **Public Officials**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing a county to apply for the appointment of special police
5 officers in order to protect the county’s employees and public officials while present
6 in the county; authorizing a certain special police officer employed by a county to
7 exercise the powers of a police officer under certain circumstances; and generally
8 relating to special police officers employed by a county.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Public Safety
11 Section 3–303 and 3–307
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Public Safety**

17 3–303.

18 (a) The following entities may apply for the appointment of special police officers
19 for the following purposes:

20 (1) a municipal corporation, county, or other governmental body of the
21 State, in order to protect property owned, leased, or regularly used by the governmental
22 body or any of its units;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) **A COUNTY, IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE COUNTY’S EMPLOYEES**
2 **AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS WHILE PRESENT IN THE COUNTY;**

3 **(3)** another state, or subdivision or unit of another state, that has an
4 interest in property located wholly or partly in this State, in order to protect the property;

5 **[(3)] (4)** a college, university, or public school system in the State, in order
6 to protect its property or students; or

7 **[(4)] (5)** a person that exists and functions for a legal business purpose,
8 in order to protect its business property.

9 (b) The applicant for a commission shall be at least 18 years old.

10 (c) (1) This subsection does not apply to an applicant for an initial commission
11 who, within 5 years prior to application, has:

12 (i) completed a basic training course for police officers approved by
13 the Secretary in consultation with the Maryland Police Training and Standards
14 Commission;

15 (ii) completed a basic training course for police officers similar to the
16 course described in item (i) of this paragraph in another state or for the federal government;

17 (iii) separated from a law enforcement agency in good standing; or

18 (iv) completed training approved by the Maryland Police Training
19 and Standards Commission for a special police officer at a State institution of higher
20 education.

21 (2) An applicant for an initial commission shall complete a training course
22 approved by the Secretary in consultation with the Maryland Police Training and
23 Standards Commission consisting of at least 80 hours of instruction, including instruction
24 on:

25 (i) criminal law;

26 (ii) constitutional procedural requirements relating to search,
27 seizure, and arrest; and

28 (iii) the appropriate use of force.

29 3–307.

30 (a) Each special police officer shall protect and preserve peace and good order on
31 the property described in the application for the commission.

1 (b) A special police officer may:

2 (1) arrest individuals who trespass or commit offenses on the property
3 described in the application for the commission;

4 (2) exercise the powers of a police officer on the property described in the
5 application for the commission;

6 (3) exercise the powers of a police officer in a county or municipal
7 corporation of the State in connection with the care, custody, and protection of other
8 property of the entity that requested the appointment of the special police officer or other
9 property, real or personal, for which the entity has assumed an obligation to maintain or
10 protect; [and]

11 (4) direct and control traffic on public highways and roads in the immediate
12 vicinity of the property described in the application for the commission in order to facilitate
13 the orderly movement of traffic to and from the property, if the Secretary approves of this
14 activity in advance; AND

15 **(5) IF EMPLOYED BY A COUNTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING**
16 **PROTECTION TO THE COUNTY'S EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS, EXERCISE THE**
17 **POWERS OF A POLICE OFFICER IN CONNECTION WITH AND NECESSARY FOR**
18 **PROTECTING THE EMPLOYEES AND OFFICIALS WHOM THE SPECIAL POLICE OFFICER**
19 **IS ASSIGNED TO PROTECT.**

20 (c) (1) A special police officer may make an arrest or issue a traffic citation for
21 a violation of the Maryland Vehicle Law or any other State or local traffic law or regulation
22 only if the special police officer:

23 (i) has a probationary or permanent appointment as a security
24 officer or is a member of an industrial police force; and

25 (ii) has completed the basic training course for police officers as
26 established by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission in accordance
27 with Subtitle 2 of this title.

28 (2) A special police officer may exercise the power described in paragraph
29 (1) of this subsection only on the property of the special police officer's employer as described
30 in the application for the commission, unless the special police officer is in active pursuit
31 for the purpose of immediate apprehension.

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
33 October 1, 2025.