

## Chapter 427

**(House Bill 478)**

AN ACT concerning

**Hagerstown Community College Police Force – Jurisdiction**

FOR the purpose of authorizing a Hagerstown Community College police officer to exercise powers granted to a peace and police officer ~~within Washington County~~ under certain circumstances; and generally relating to the Hagerstown Community College Police Force.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
 Article – Education  
 Section 16–407.1  
 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

**Article – Education**

16–407.1.

(a) There is a Hagerstown Community College Police Force.

(b) (1) A Hagerstown Community College police officer has the powers granted to a peace and police officer.

(2) (i) **[A] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH,** A Hagerstown Community College police officer may exercise these powers only on property that is owned, leased, operated by, or under the control of Hagerstown Community College.

(ii) The police officer may [not] exercise these powers on any other property [unless] ~~WITHIN WASHINGTON COUNTY~~ IF:

1. Engaged in fresh pursuit of a suspected offender;
2. Necessary to facilitate the orderly flow of traffic to and from property owned, leased, operated by, or under the control of Hagerstown Community College; ~~or~~
3. Ordered to do so by the Governor; **OR**

**4. IN WASHINGTON COUNTY WHEN:**

**A. RESPONDING TO AN IMMINENT THREAT TO LIFE, PROPERTY, OR PUBLIC SAFETY; OR**

**B. COMPLYING WITH A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE HAGERSTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE POLICE FORCE AND ANOTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY WITH JURISDICTION.**

(c) (1) In consultation with the Secretary of State Police and the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission, the Hagerstown Community College Board of Trustees shall adopt standards, qualifications, and prerequisites of character, training, education, human and public relations, and experience for Hagerstown Community College police officers, including standards for the performance of their duties.

(2) To the extent practicable, the Board shall adopt standards that are similar to the standards adopted for the Department of State Police.

(d) The Hagerstown Community College Board of Trustees shall adopt regulations governing the operation and conduct of the Hagerstown Community College Police Force and of Hagerstown Community College police officers.

**(E) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION MAY BE CONSTRUED TO:**

**(1) SUPERSEDE THE AUTHORITY OR JURISDICTION OF:**

**(I) THE WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE; OR**

**(II) ANY OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, AS DEFINED IN § 1-101(C) OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE; OR**

**(2) LIMIT THE AUTHORITY OR JURISDICTION OF THE HAGERSTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE POLICE FORCE AUTHORIZED UNDER § 5-802 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE.**

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

Approved by the Governor, May 6, 2025.