

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 766

(Senator Jackson)

Judicial Proceedings

Department of General Services - Maryland Capitol Police - Jurisdiction

This bill alters and expands the jurisdiction of the Department of General Services (DGS) and the Maryland Capitol Police (MCP) within DGS.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Altering and expanding the jurisdiction of DGS and MCP is not anticipated to materially affect State finances. DGS can implement the bill using existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: The bill's changes are not anticipated to materially affect local government finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill repeals the jurisdiction by DGS over, and full police authority for, the enforcement of the criminal laws and the parking and motor vehicle laws as to the operation, maintenance, and protection of:

- buildings and grounds that, on June 30, 1984, were administered by the Office of Annapolis Public Buildings and Grounds and extending to the surrounding area that encompasses 1,000 feet in any direction from the boundary of those buildings and grounds;
- buildings and grounds that, on June 30, 1984, were administered by the Office of Baltimore Public Buildings and Grounds and extending to the surrounding area that

encompasses 1,000 feet in any direction from the boundary of those buildings and grounds;

- multiservice centers designated by law or by the Board of Public Works (BPW) and extending to the surrounding areas that encompasses 1,000 feet in any direction from the boundary of those multiservice centers; and
- buildings and grounds that, on June 30, 2019, were administered by the Maryland Department of Labor (MD Labor), and extending to the surrounding area that encompasses 1,000 feet in any direction from the boundary of those buildings.

Instead, the bill establishes that DGS has jurisdiction over and full police authority for the enforcement *statewide* of the criminal laws and the parking and motor vehicle laws as to the operation, maintenance, and protection of (1) State-owned or State-leased buildings and grounds and extending to the surrounding area that encompasses 2,000 feet in any direction from the boundary of those buildings and (2) other public improvements or grounds designated by law or by BPW.

In addition to these powers, an MCP police officer may investigate and enforce statewide the criminal laws and Title 12 of the Criminal Procedure Article (Forfeiture – Controlled Dangerous Substances Violations). If an MCP police officer exercises these powers, notification of the investigation and enforcement must be provided as soon as possible to:

- the chief of police or the designee of the chief of police in a municipality;
- the chief of police or the designee of the chief of police in a county with a county police department;
- the sheriff or designee of the sheriff in a county without a police department; and
- the Police Commissioner or designee of the Police Commissioner in Baltimore City.

Current Law: DGS has jurisdiction over the operation, maintenance, and protection of specified State buildings and public grounds in Annapolis and Baltimore. MCP is a full-service police department that provides law enforcement and security services for State buildings, State parking lots, and State parking garages in Annapolis and Baltimore.

Specifically, DGS has jurisdiction over, and full police authority for, the enforcement of the criminal laws and the parking and motor vehicle laws as to the operation, maintenance, and protection of:

- buildings and grounds that, on June 30, 1984, were administered by the Office of Annapolis Public Buildings and Grounds and extending to the surrounding area that encompasses 1,000 feet in any direction from the boundary of those buildings and grounds;

- buildings and grounds that, on June 30, 1984, were administered by the Office of Baltimore Public Buildings and Grounds and extending to the surrounding area that encompasses 1,000 feet in any direction from the boundary of those buildings and grounds;
- multiservice centers designated by law or by BPW and extending to the surrounding areas that encompasses 1,000 feet in any direction from the boundary of those multiservice centers;
- buildings and grounds that, on June 30, 2019, were administered by MD Labor, and extending to the surrounding area that encompasses 1,000 feet in any direction from the boundary of those buildings;
- State-owned or State-leased buildings and grounds and extending to the surrounding area that encompasses 1,000 feet in any direction from the boundary of those buildings and grounds; and
- other public improvements or grounds designated by law or by BPW.

With respect to State legislative buildings in the City of Annapolis, as specified, the Presiding Officers of the General Assembly must have final authority over the use of and access to buildings by the members of the General Assembly, their staff, and personnel of the Department of Legislative Services.

Within the jurisdiction of MCP, an MCP police officer has all of the powers granted to a peace officer and a police officer of the State, provided the officer meets the legal requirements set forth by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission and is designated by DGS as a police officer.

Each police employee, including an individual who is appointed to MCP for training before regular assignment as a police employee, must remain in a probationary status for a period of one year after the date of appointment to MCP. The Secretary may terminate the employment of a police employee in probationary status for any reason that the Secretary considers sufficient.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 1485 (Delegate Simmons) - Rules and Executive Nominations.

Information Source(s): Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Charles, Dorchester, and Garrett counties; cities of Annapolis and Laurel; Maryland Municipal League; Town of La Plata; Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission; Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); University System of Maryland; Morgan State University; St. Mary's College of Maryland; Department of General Services; Department of Housing and Community Development; Department of Juvenile Services; Maryland Department of Labor; Department of Natural Resources; Board of Public Works; Department of State Police; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

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