

Chapter 16

(Senate Bill 455 of the 2025 Regular Session)

AN ACT concerning

**Security Guard Agencies – Special Police Officers – Application for
Appointment**

FOR the purpose of authorizing a certain security guard agency to apply for the appointment of special police officers in order to protect property owned or leased by the security guard agency's clients; and generally relating to special police officers.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Public Safety
Section 3–303
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 – Public Safety

3–303.

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

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

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

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

(4) a person that exists and functions for a legal business purpose, in order to protect its business property; **OR**

(5) A PERSON THAT HOLDS A VALID LICENSE AS A SECURITY GUARD AGENCY UNDER TITLE 19, SUBTITLE 3 OF THE BUSINESS OCCUPATIONS AND PROFESSIONS ARTICLE, IN ORDER TO PROTECT PROPERTY OWNED OR LEASED BY ITS CLIENTS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(i) criminal law;

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

(iii) the appropriate use of force.

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

Gubernatorial Veto Override, December 16, 2025.