

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 298

(Senator Henson)

Judicial Proceedings

**Department of General Services - Maryland Capitol Police - Statewide
Jurisdiction**

This bill alters and expands the jurisdiction of the Department of General Services (DGS) and the Maryland Capital Police (MCP) within DGS. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: DGS did not respond to multiple requests for information on the fiscal and operational impact of the bill. However, altering and expanding the jurisdiction of DGS and MCP is not anticipated to materially affect State finances.

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

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill repeals DGS's 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 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 *statewide* 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 (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 otherwise enforce statewide the criminal laws, Title 12 of the Criminal Procedure Article (Forfeiture – Controlled Dangerous Substances Violations), and parking and motor vehicle laws. If an MCP police officer exercises these powers, notification of the investigation and enforcement must be provided as soon as reasonably practicable and as applicable to:

- the chief of police of a law enforcement agency, as specified, or the designee of the chief of police;
- in a county in which the Department of State Police (DSP) provides general law enforcement, (1) the commander of the local barracks for DSP or the designee of the commander and (2) the Secretary of State Police or the designee of the Secretary;
- in Baltimore City, (1) the Police Commissioner or the designee of the Police Commissioner and (2) the Sheriff or the designee of the Sheriff; and
- the Secretary of State Police or the designee of the Secretary, the Chief of Police of the Maryland Transit Administration Police Force or the designee of the Chief, the Chief of Police of the Maryland Department of Health Secured Transport and Investigation Unit or the designee of the Chief, and the Superintendent of the Natural Resources Police or the designee of the Superintendent.

The required notification must be made in accordance with adopted State regulations, policies, procedures, and memoranda of understanding.

In addition, the bill repeals MCP jurisdiction on or about improvements, grounds and multiservice centers under the jurisdiction of DGS and in the surrounding areas of the

buildings and grounds in the State as described in § 4-601 of State Finance and Procurement Article. Instead, the bill establishes that the Secretary of General Services may establish a police and security force *with statewide jurisdiction* to protect public officials, people, and property in accordance with § 4-601 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

Current Law: In accordance with the provisions of the State Personnel and Pensions Article, the Secretary of General Services may establish a police and security force, known as MCP of DGS, to protect people and property on or about improvements, grounds, and multiservice centers under the jurisdiction of the department, and in the surrounding areas of the buildings and grounds in the State, as specified.

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 been introduced within the last three years. See SB 766 and HB 1485 of 2025.

Designated Cross File: HB 338 (Delegate Simmons, *et al.*) - Rules and Executive Nominations..

Information Source(s): Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Cecil, Frederick, Montgomery, and Somerset counties; Maryland Municipal League; Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission; Comptroller's Office; Baltimore City Community College; University System of Maryland; St. Mary's College of Maryland; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Natural Resources; Board of Public Works; Department of State Police; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

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sj/mcr

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