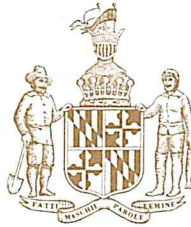


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and State Personnel Oversight

Joint Committee on Pensions

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 941— Department of General Services – Jurisdiction and Maryland Capitol Police

March 3, 2020

Sponsor Testimony

Chairwoman McIntosh, and Honorable members of the House Appropriations Committee:

HB 941 seeks to expand the jurisdiction of the Department of General Services (DGS) and the Maryland Capital Police (MCP) within DGS. The bill also requires the appointment of the Chief of Police of MCP and establishes the duties of the chief. In addition, the bill alters (1) the powers and requirements for an MCP officer and (2) the process for appointment and termination of specified MCP officers. Following the merger of the Maryland Capital Police (MCP) of the Department of General Services (DGS) with the Department of Labor Police Force during the 2019 Legislative Session, Senate Bill 561 expands the jurisdiction of the MCP.

Since the Departments came together, MCP found that there was limited jurisdiction for enforcement of State laws at several Department of Labor properties. This bill will increase the authority of DGS and MCP to all State-owned or State-leased buildings and grounds as well as to the surrounding area 1,000 feet in any direction from the boundary of those buildings and grounds. Additionally, under this legislation the Secretary of General Services must appoint the Chief of MCP, who will serve at the pleasure of the Secretary. The Chief will oversee all of the operations of the MCP.

This legislation will allow MCP to more effectively resolve crime committed on state property and will create operational efficiency and accountability. For these reasons, I urge this committee's favorable report of HB 941.