



State of Maryland
Department of State Police
Government Affairs Section
Annapolis Office (410) 260-6100

POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

DATE: February 19, 2020

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 561 **Position:** Support

BILL TITLE: Department of General Services – Jurisdiction and Maryland Capitol Police

REVIEW AND ANALYSIS:

This legislation seeks to alter the jurisdiction of the Department of General Services (DGS) to include all state-owned or state leased buildings and grounds. By the authority granted to DGS, the Maryland Capitol Police shall also have police authority on all state-owned property or state leased buildings.

The Maryland Capitol Police provides facility security at a number of locations in the state. The law has not been entirely clear on which properties were included within their jurisdiction. When the Maryland Capitol Police absorbed the Department of Labor (DOL) police force, there was some concern the limitations in the current law could restrict the ability of the Maryland Capitol Police to enforce the law on DOL properties.

Senate Bill 561 seeks to clarify the authority of the Maryland Capitol Police as well as define the authority of the Secretary of the DGS in appointing a chief and the hiring of police officers. The bill repeals outdated language relating to the authority of police agencies that might, at one time, have been called to handle incidents on state property. This legislation does not diminish the rights of the officers.

For these reasons, the Department of State Police urges the Committee to give Senate Bill 561 a favorable report.