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Lt. Governor



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MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES

MARYLAND CAPITOL POLICE

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BILL: Senate Bill 561

Department of General Services - Jurisdiction and Maryland Capitol Police

COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings

DATE: February 19, 2020

POSITION: Support

Senate Bill 561 –Department of General Services – Jurisdiction and Maryland Capitol Police. The Maryland Capitol Police of the Department of General Services (MCP) provides this letter in support of Senate Bill 561.

As of July 1, 2019 the Department of Labor police force (DOL) was merged into the MCP. This consolidation was in support of the Governor's initiative to improve customer services. Passage of Senate Bill 561 will provide:

- Centralized police force;
- Improved customer service that is more efficient and effective;
- A uniformed command and control structure; and
- Long-term savings to the state.

The merger of the DOL force into the MPC added 27 locations administered by the DOL throughout the state. Research by MCP suggested that there was limited or no jurisdiction or authority to enforce state laws at several of the DOL properties, particularly leased buildings or those occupied under cooperative agreements.

As such, **MCP is now responsible for responding for facilities in multiple jurisdictions with limited or questionable authority to act.** Senate Bill 561 will provide sworn members of the MCP with the authority to enforce criminal, motor vehicle and traffic laws in state owned or leased facilities which includes 1,000 feet surrounding each property.

For additional information, contact Chief Michael S. Wilson, Maryland Capitol Police at 410-767-4431 or Ellen Robertson, DGS Legislative Liaison at 410-260-2908.