



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

**POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

**DATE:** March 3, 2020

**BILL NUMBER:** House Bill 1111      **POSITION:** Support with  
Amendments

**BILL TITLE:** Public Safety – Special Police Officers – Training and  
Renewal of Commission

**REVIEW AND ANALYSIS:**

This legislation seeks to alter the expiration date of the Special Police Officer (SPO) Commission as well as require initial training prior to being issued a Commission.

Under current law, an initial Special Police Officer Commissions and each renewal is for a period of three years. There is no requirement for any training.

This legislation proposes that period of the Commission be changed to one year for initial application and each renewal. This will be very labor intensive for the Department as now the Commissions are staggered over a three-year period. This would also be burdensome on the SPO Agencies as they would have to send their SPOs in person to the Department for renewals annually and pay the full fee each time. The Department would suggest returning the expiration to the existing terms.

This legislation also adds a training requirement that does not currently exist. Each SPO upon application for their initial Commission would have to provide proof of successful completion of an approved 80 hour course of training. There is an exception for anyone who has successfully completed a basic training course for police officers, which is 26 weeks.

The Department would also like to see an amendment to the training requirement that would require the SPO upon renewal would have to complete 12 hours of additional training within the three year period.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of State Police urges the Committee to give House Bill 1111 a favorable report as amended.