

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Enrolled - Revised

House Bill 478
Judiciary

(Washington County Delegation)

Judicial Proceedings

Hagerstown Community College Police Force - Jurisdiction

This bill authorizes a Hagerstown Community College police officer to exercise powers granted to a peace and police officer on any other property outside Hagerstown Community College if (1) engaged in fresh pursuit of a suspected offender; (2) necessary to facilitate the orderly flow of traffic to and from property owned, leased, operated by, or under the control of Hagerstown Community College; (3) ordered to do so by the Governor; or (4) in Washington County when responding to an imminent threat to life, property, or public safety or complying with a memorandum of understanding between the Hagerstown Community College Police Force and another law enforcement agency with jurisdiction. Nothing in the bill may be construed to (1) supersede the authority or jurisdiction of the Washington County Sheriff's Office or any other law enforcement agency or (2) limit the authority or jurisdiction of the Hagerstown Community College Police force authorized under provisions relating to the statewide jurisdiction of officers for controlled dangerous substance offenses. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill only affects local government operations.

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

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law:

Hagerstown Community College Police Force

A Hagerstown Community College police officer has the powers granted to a peace and police officer and may exercise these powers only on property that is owned, leased, operated by, or under the control of Hagerstown Community College. The police officer may *not* exercise these powers on any other property *unless*:

- engaged in fresh pursuit of a suspected offender;
- necessary to facilitate the orderly flow of traffic to and from property owned, leased, operated by, or under the control of Hagerstown Community College; or
- ordered to do so by the Governor.

In consultation with the Secretary of State Police and the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission, the Hagerstown Community College Board of Trustees must adopt standards, qualifications, and prerequisites of character, training, education, human and public relations, and experience for Hagerstown Community College police officers, including standards for the performance of their duties. To the extent practicable, the board of trustees must adopt standards that are similar to the standards adopted for the Department of State Police (DSP). The board of trustees must adopt regulations governing the operation and conduct of the Hagerstown Community College Police Force and of Hagerstown Community College police officers.

Statewide Jurisdiction for Officers

Under § 5-802 of the Criminal Law Article, notwithstanding any other law, a law enforcement officer of the Maryland Transportation Authority Police, a municipal corporation, or a county may investigate and otherwise enforce Title 5 of the Criminal Law Article (Controlled Dangerous Substances, Prescriptions, and Other Substances) and Title 12 of the Criminal Procedure Article (Forfeiture – Controlled Dangerous Substances Violations) throughout the State without any limitation as to jurisdiction and to the same extent as a DSP law enforcement officer. This authority may be exercised only in accordance with regulations that the Secretary of State Police adopts.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: SB 504 (Washington County Senators) - Judicial Proceedings.

Information Source(s): Washington County; City of Hagerstown; Governor's Office; Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Department of State Police; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 2, 2025
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