

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2008 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 1550

(Delegate Busch, *et al.*)

Judiciary

Judicial Proceedings and Budget and Taxation

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**Department of General Services Police - Jurisdiction, Authority, and  
Responsibility**

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This emergency bill alters provisions relating to the jurisdiction, authority, and responsibility of the Department of General Services Police in Annapolis and Baltimore City. The bill provides that DGS has full police jurisdiction and authority for the enforcement of criminal laws and parking and motor vehicle laws on building and grounds currently under its jurisdiction. It also extends this jurisdiction to the surrounding areas of these buildings and grounds to 1,000 feet in any direction in Annapolis and Baltimore City.

The bill amends a concurrent authority provision relating to the Secretary and chiefs of police for the covered areas to enforce parking and motor vehicle laws by eliminating the need for a chief of police to prescribe conditions for the concurrent authority or applying that authority only to certain streets designated by the chief of police.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill's expansion of DGS law enforcement authority could be accommodated with the departments existing budgeted resources. Any additional citations, arrests, or convictions resulting from this change should not measurably affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** DGS has jurisdiction over the operation, maintenance, and protection of the following:

- buildings and grounds that, on June 30, 1984, were administered by the Office of Annapolis Public Buildings and Grounds;
- buildings and grounds that, on June 30, 1984, were administered by the Office of Baltimore Public Buildings and Grounds;
- multiservice centers designated by law or by the Board of Public Works; and
- other public improvements or grounds designated by law or by the Board of Public Works.

In accordance with the provisions of the State Personnel and Pensions Article, the Secretary may establish a security force to protect people and property on or about improvements, grounds, and multiservice centers under the jurisdiction of the department. The security force may include sworn police officers. A member of the security force may not be involuntarily transferred from a site to another site. A member of the security force has the same powers as a sheriff or police officer under the Criminal Procedure Article only if the member meets the legal requirements set forth by the Maryland Police Training Commission and is designated by DGS as a police officer.

The Secretary has concurrent authority with a chief of police to enforce parking and motor vehicle laws on streets adjacent to all improvements, grounds, and multiservice centers under the jurisdiction of the department. The concurrent authority is subject to any conditions prescribed by the chief of police and applies only to streets designated by the chief of police.

A member of the police force of DGS is a statutorily recognized “law enforcement officer” who, in an official capacity, is authorized by law to make arrests.

**Background:** The DGS Division of Facilities Security offers 24-hour law enforcement and security for the Annapolis and Baltimore State office complexes. The fiscal 2009 budget allowance for the division provides for 198 positions, including administrative staff. The Annapolis detachment of the DGS police provides security at 19 buildings, 5 parking garages, and 11 surface parking lots. The Baltimore detachment provides law enforcement and security for 11 buildings, 6 State parking lots, and 4 parking garages.

## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of General Services, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 14, 2008  
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