

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 246

(Anne Arundel County Senators)

Judicial Proceedings

Judiciary

Public Safety - Anne Arundel Community College Police Force

This bill establishes a police force of the Anne Arundel County Community College (AACC) and makes the police officers subject to the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights and eligible for certification by the Maryland Police Training Commission (PTC).

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Any responsibilities for PTC and the Department of State Police (DSP) can be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: Minimal. It is assumed that any local costs associated with the completion of initial police training and annual in-service training to meet standards adopted by the AACC Board of Trustees can be handled with the existing budgeted resources of AACC and Anne Arundel County.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill requires the AACC Board of Trustees to adopt standards, qualifications, and prerequisites for AACC police officers in consultation with the Secretary of State Police and PTC. To the extent practicable, those standards should be similar to those of DSP. The AACC Board of Trustees must adopt regulations governing the operation and conduct of the AACC Police Force and its officers.

An AACC police officer has the powers granted to a peace and police officer, including making an arrest. With specified exceptions, these powers may be exercised only on property that is owned, leased, or operated by or under the control of AACC.

Current Law/Background: The bill establishes the AACC Police Force in the same manner as police forces already in place at the Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) and the Hagerstown Community College (HCC). The BCCC police force was established by Chapter 417 of 2006, and the HCC police force was established by Chapter 389 of 2009.

AACC's Department of Public Safety (DPS) is an accredited agency and its personnel are commissioned as special police officers. DPS officers have full police authority to make arrests, conduct investigations, and otherwise enforce the law on all property owned or operated by the college. DPS officers have primary responsibility for campus security and safety, but work closely with the Anne Arundel County police and fire departments.

PTC trains and certifies police officers and also approves and certifies police training academies that meet the commission's minimum standards for police officer training. If AACC's Board of Trustees opts to develop its own training program for its officers, it must meet the commission's standards in order for its officers to have police powers.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 552 (Delegate Schuh, Chair, Anne Arundel County Delegation) - Judiciary.

Information Source(s): Anne Arundel Community College, Department of State Police, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Maryland Higher Education Commission, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 3, 2014
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