

Chapter 576

**(House Bill 246)**

AN ACT concerning

**Public Safety – Fire Police – Cecil County**

FOR the purpose of authorizing a certain commanding officer to designate to the Sheriff of Cecil County a certain number of members of fire or ambulance companies to serve as fire police in Cecil County; requiring a certain designation to be read in a certain manner; authorizing the Sheriff of Cecil County to appoint certain individuals to serve as fire police in Cecil County; providing that certain powers are granted to individuals appointed to serve as fire police in Cecil County; authorizing certain powers to be exercised in a certain location; providing for the termination of a certain appointment; repealing the authority of the Sheriff of Cecil County and a certain commanding officer relating to designating and appointing certain individuals as deputy sheriffs for a certain purpose; and generally relating to fire police in Cecil County.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Public Safety  
Section 7–302(a), 7–303(a) and (b), and 7–304  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2011 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
Article – Public Safety  
Section 7–302(b)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2011 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – Public Safety**

7–302.

(a) This section applies only to Baltimore County, [Cecil County,] Dorchester County, and Queen Anne’s County.

(b) The sheriff of a county subject to this section may appoint as deputy sheriffs members of fire companies, whether volunteer, career, incorporated, or unincorporated, to exercise the powers of deputy sheriffs at fires and while going to and from fires.

7–303.

(a) (1) This section applies only to Allegany County, Caroline County, Carroll County, [Cecil County,] Dorchester County, Frederick County, Harford County, Kent County, Somerset County, Talbot County, Wicomico County, and Worcester County.

(2) Except as modified by this section, the provisions of § 7–302 of this subtitle apply to this section.

(b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the commanding officer may designate 12 members of a fire company to be appointed as deputy sheriffs.

(2) In [Cecil County and] Harford County, the commanding officer may designate 20 members of a fire company to be appointed as deputy sheriffs.

7–304.

(a) In this section, “fire and ambulance company” means a volunteer, career, incorporated, or unincorporated fire or ambulance company.

(b) This section applies only to **CECIL COUNTY AND** Washington County.

(c) (1) (i) The commanding officer may designate to the [Sheriff] **SHERIFF** of [Washington County] **A COUNTY** up to 20 individuals who are members of the commanding officer’s fire or ambulance company to be appointed as fire police [in Washington County].

(ii) A written certificate of designation signed by the commanding officer shall accompany each request for appointment under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph.

(2) **(I)** The Sheriff of Washington County shall appoint individuals to serve as fire police in Washington County from those members designated by the commanding officer under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

**(II) THE SHERIFF OF CECIL COUNTY MAY APPOINT INDIVIDUALS TO SERVE AS FIRE POLICE IN CECIL COUNTY FROM THOSE MEMBERS DESIGNATED BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

(d) (1) The powers of individuals serving as fire police [in Washington County] are limited to traffic control and scene safety while functioning at:

- (i) parades;
- (ii) accidents;

- (iii) fires;
- (iv) floods;
- (v) other emergencies; or
- (vi) public events conducted by a fire or ambulance company or the Sheriff's department.

(2) The powers authorized under this subsection may be exercised:

(i) in a municipal corporation in [Washington County] **THE COUNTY**, subject to the discretion, and control of the chief of the police force of the municipal corporation; or

(ii) in other areas of [Washington County] **THE COUNTY**.

(3) An individual appointed to serve as fire police in Washington County may not use a weapon in the performance of duties authorized under this subsection.

(e) (1) The appointment of a member of a fire or ambulance company as fire police [in Washington County] terminates if the member ceases to be a member of the fire or ambulance company.

(2) The [Sheriff] **SHERIFF** of [Washington County] **A COUNTY** may remove a member appointed as fire police at any time.

(3) If a member appointed to serve as fire police [in Washington County] dies, resigns, is dismissed, refuses to serve, or is unable to serve, the commanding officer may designate another member of the fire or ambulance company to be appointed as fire police.

(f) An individual appointed to serve as fire police in Washington County under this section is deemed an appointed official and shall be treated as an appointed official for purposes of Title 22 and Title 23 of the State Personnel and Pensions Article.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2016.

**Approved by the Governor, May 19, 2016.**