

# HOUSE BILL 478

F4, E4

5lr1062  
CF SB 504

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By: **Washington County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2025

Assigned to: Judiciary

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Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 1, 2025

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Hagerstown Community College Police Force – Jurisdiction**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing a Hagerstown Community College police officer to exercise  
4 powers granted to a peace and police officer within Washington County under certain  
5 circumstances; and generally relating to the Hagerstown Community College Police  
6 Force.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article – Education  
9 Section 16–407.1  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Education**

15 16–407.1.

16 (a) There is a Hagerstown Community College Police Force.

17 (b) (1) A Hagerstown Community College police officer has the powers granted  
18 to a peace and police officer.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1           (2)   (i)    **[A] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS**  
2 **PARAGRAPH, A** Hagerstown Community College police officer may exercise these powers  
3 only on property that is owned, leased, operated by, or under the control of Hagerstown  
4 Community College.

5                   (ii)   The police officer may [not] exercise these powers on any other  
6 property [unless] **WITHIN WASHINGTON COUNTY IF:**

7                           1.    Engaged in fresh pursuit of a suspected offender;

8                           2.    Necessary to facilitate the orderly flow of traffic to and  
9 from property owned, leased, operated by, or under the control of Hagerstown Community  
10 College; or

11                           3.    Ordered to do so by the Governor.

12           (c)   (1)    In consultation with the Secretary of State Police and the Maryland  
13 Police Training and Standards Commission, the Hagerstown Community College Board of  
14 Trustees shall adopt standards, qualifications, and prerequisites of character, training,  
15 education, human and public relations, and experience for Hagerstown Community College  
16 police officers, including standards for the performance of their duties.

17                   (2)    To the extent practicable, the Board shall adopt standards that are  
18 similar to the standards adopted for the Department of State Police.

19           (d)    The Hagerstown Community College Board of Trustees shall adopt  
20 regulations governing the operation and conduct of the Hagerstown Community College  
21 Police Force and of Hagerstown Community College police officers.

22           **(E)    NOTHING IN THIS SECTION MAY BE CONSTRUED TO:**

23                   **(1)    SUPERSEDE THE AUTHORITY OR JURISDICTION OF:**

24                           **(I)    THE WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE; OR**

25                           **(II)   ANY OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, AS DEFINED IN §**  
26 **1-101(C) OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE; OR**

27                   **(2)    LIMIT THE AUTHORITY OR JURISDICTION OF THE HAGERSTOWN**  
28 **COMMUNITY COLLEGE POLICE FORCE AUTHORIZED UNDER § 5-802 OF THE**  
29 **CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE.**

30           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
31 1, 2025.