

SENATE BILL 455

E4

5lr2738

By: **Senator McKay**

Introduced and read first time: January 21, 2025

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Security Guard Agencies – Special Police Officers – Application for**
3 **Appointment**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing a certain security guard agency to apply for the
5 appointment of special police officers in order to protect property owned or leased by
6 the security guard agency’s clients; and generally relating to special police officers.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Public Safety
9 Section 3–303
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 – Public Safety**

15 3–303.

16 (a) The following entities may apply for the appointment of special police officers
17 for the following purposes:

18 (1) a municipal corporation, county, or other governmental body of the
19 State, in order to protect property owned, leased, or regularly used by the governmental
20 body or any of its units;

21 (2) another state, or subdivision or unit of another state, that has an
22 interest in property located wholly or partly in this State, in order to protect the property;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) a college, university, or public school system in the State, in order to
2 protect its property or students; [or]

3 (4) a person that exists and functions for a legal business purpose, in order
4 to protect its business property; **OR**

5 **(5) A PERSON THAT HOLDS A VALID LICENSE AS A SECURITY GUARD**
6 **AGENCY UNDER TITLE 19, SUBTITLE 3 OF THE BUSINESS OCCUPATIONS AND**
7 **PROFESSIONS ARTICLE, IN ORDER TO PROTECT PROPERTY OWNED OR LEASED BY**
8 **ITS CLIENTS.**

9 (b) The applicant for a commission shall be at least 18 years old.

10 (c) (1) This subsection does not apply to an applicant for an initial commission
11 who, within 5 years prior to application, has:

12 (i) completed a basic training course for police officers approved by
13 the Secretary in consultation with the Maryland Police Training and Standards
14 Commission;

15 (ii) completed a basic training course for police officers similar to the
16 course described in item (i) of this paragraph in another state or for the federal government;

17 (iii) separated from a law enforcement agency in good standing; or

18 (iv) completed training approved by the Maryland Police Training
19 and Standards Commission for a special police officer at a State institution of higher
20 education.

21 (2) An applicant for an initial commission shall complete a training course
22 approved by the Secretary in consultation with the Maryland Police Training and
23 Standards Commission consisting of at least 80 hours of instruction, including instruction
24 on:

25 (i) criminal law;

26 (ii) constitutional procedural requirements relating to search,
27 seizure, and arrest; and

28 (iii) the appropriate use of force.

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