

Written Support

**House Judiciary*****House Bill 1803– Baltimore City – Independent Institutions of Higher Education  
– Police Force*****Tina Bjarekull**

March 20, 2018

On behalf of Maryland’s independent colleges and universities, I offer this testimony in support of *House Bill 1803 – Baltimore City – Independent Institutions of Higher Education – Police Force*. This legislation authorizes an independent college or university located in Baltimore City to establish a campus police force based on a memorandum of understanding with the Mayor or the Police Commissioner of Baltimore City. A campus police officer authorized under this legislation has certain policing powers on property that is owned, leased, operated by, or under the control of the institution of higher education. In addition, a campus police officer may exercise powers on off-campus property under very limited circumstances. An institution that establishes a campus police force must adopt standards, qualifications, and certain prerequisites in consultation with the Secretary of State Police and the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission. In addition, the legislation clarifies that an independent college or university that establishes a campus police force as provided by this Act may continue to use a campus security force or building guards in addition to a campus police force.

This legislation is enabling and does not place a mandate on any MICUA member institution. If desired, a MICUA institution located in Baltimore City may partner with the Mayor or the Police Commissioner to strengthen public safety in and around the campuses of the institution. Campus police officers authorized under a memorandum of understanding with the Mayor or the Police Commissioner would have the powers granted to peace and police officers, including the authority to carry firearms, make arrests, and enforce the law on all property owned or operated by the institution. Campus police officers are prohibited from exercising policing powers on any other property unless the officer is engaged in a fresh pursuit of a suspected offender, requested or authorized to do so by the Mayor or the Police Commissioner, is facilitating the orderly flow of traffic to and from the campus, or is ordered to do so by the Governor.

The University System of Maryland, Morgan State University, and Baltimore City Community College currently have the authority to employ campus police officers with policing powers. In addition, several private, nonprofit institutions located in urban areas in other states have similar powers.

**The public-private partnership authorized by House Bill 1803 will permit the City and its independent institutions to work collaboratively to address safety and security issues unique to large urban centers. Therefore, MICUA supports House Bill 1803 and urges a favorable Committee report.**