

Summary of the Community Safety and Strengthening Act

The Community Safety and Strengthening Act ([SB 793](#)) makes investments in programs to help address the root causes of crime both in Baltimore and across Maryland and authorizes Johns Hopkins University (JHU) to establish a university police department, the Johns Hopkins Police Department (JHPD). The summary below provides information about the Act as amended and approved by the Maryland General Assembly.

OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS

The Community Safety and Strengthening Act supports a series of initiatives, for the City of Baltimore and communities statewide, to help address the root causes of crime through investments in community development, youth engagement, and economic opportunity. Those community investments include the following:

Seed Community Development Anchor Institution Fund (Seed Fund)

The Seed Fund is a statewide program that provides competitive matching grants to anchor institutions for community development projects in blighted areas. Across the state, more than 75 hospitals and colleges are eligible to apply for matching grants from this fund. The Community Safety and Strengthening Act increases available funds from \$5 million to \$10 million and makes the funding permanent.

Maryland Law Enforcement Cadet-Apprenticeship Program

The Community Safety and Strengthening Act builds upon the 2018 re-launch of the police cadet program in Baltimore to address police shortages statewide and build a pipeline of qualified local candidates. The Act establishes an apprenticeship grant program that provides a grant of up to \$2,000 per cadet-apprentice to law enforcement agencies across the state (\$1,000 per cadet-apprentice for a university police department) to support the hiring, training, and mentorship of young adults for a career in law enforcement. To be eligible for an award, the law enforcement agency must employ at least one apprentice who (1) has been employed by the agency for at least seven months; (2) is enrolled in the first year of a specified apprenticeship program; and (3) lives in a zip code in which at least 10% of the population is below the federal poverty level. The Act requires at least \$750,000 of funding for the program each year.

Johns Hopkins Police Department Police Athletics / Activities League (PAL)

The Community Safety and Strengthening Act requires the JHPD to establish, operate, and fully fund at least one Police Athletics / Activities League. PAL is a national program that works to promote the prevention of juvenile crime by building relationships among youth, police, and the community. There are currently only two PAL programs in the country offered by university police departments, including a PAL launched last year in West Baltimore by the University of Maryland Baltimore Police Department.

East Baltimore Historical Library

The Community Safety and Strengthening Act provides that it is the intent of the General Assembly that the East Baltimore Historical Library receives \$100,000 in State funds if JHU provides a matching grant of \$100,000.

Baltimore City YouthWorks Summer Program

The Community Safety and Strengthening Act provides state funding for the Baltimore City YouthWorks Summer Program to provide \$1 million per year for four years. Note that JHU currently collaborates with Baltimore City YouthWorks to fund and operate a complementary summer youth jobs program, investing over \$1 million per year and employing more than 450 young people each summer.

Baltimore City Children and Youth Fund

The Community Safety and Strengthening Act provides \$3.5 million per year for four years to the Baltimore City Children and Youth Fund, a grant program launched in 2015, with overwhelming support from the Baltimore City Council and Baltimore voters, for neighborhood-based groups that provide youth employment, mentorship and training opportunities. The state funding will be administered by the city's Local Management Board.

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT (JHPD)

The Community Safety and Strengthening Act authorizes JHU to establish a university police department based on a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between JHU and the Baltimore Police Department (BPD) with input from the community.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Consistent with police departments at public universities in Baltimore City, the JHPD is required to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the BPD regarding matters related to police jurisdiction and operation. Under this MOU, JHPD will be able to respond to calls for service within its jurisdiction, with BPD retaining primary responsibility for subsequent investigations and arrests related to more serious Part I offenses specified under the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, except theft, burglary and motor vehicle taking. The BPD will also maintain evidence collected from crime scenes at the Evidence Control Unit of BPD and will impound any stolen vehicles.

JHU is required to post the draft MOU online and present it to community members during at least two public forums – one near the Homewood and Peabody campuses and the other near the East Baltimore Campus. Notice of public forums must be provided by both email and mail to university affiliates and community associations at least 10 days in advance. The Baltimore City Council and the public each must have at least 30 days to review the proposed MOU and submit written comments. When a final MOU is agreed to, the University must publicly post a copy online.

Geography / Jurisdictional Boundaries

- **Primary Responsibility:** The JHPD has primary law enforcement responsibility for its campus area, defined as property that is:
 1. Owned, leased, operated by or under the control of the University;
 2. Located within specific boundaries (listed in the Act) on the Homewood, East Baltimore and Peabody campuses; and
 3. Used for educational or institutional purposes.

The Act prohibits JHU from expanding its area of primary responsibility beyond narrowly defined statutory boundaries.

- **Shared Responsibility:** The JHPD is authorized to share law enforcement responsibility with the BPD in areas adjacent to its campus areas, subject to community agreement and authority from BPD documented in the MOU. In order for the JHPD to operate in an adjacent area, the Baltimore City Council must pass a resolution confirming that Johns Hopkins sought community input and received agreement from a majority of community members.

Limitation of Police Powers

The JHPD is not permitted to exercise police powers on any property – other than its campus area and other areas where there is community support – unless:

1. Engaged in fresh pursuit of a suspected offender;
2. Necessary to facilitate the orderly flow of traffic to and from the university's campus area;
3. Specially requested or authorized by the Mayor of Baltimore City in specific emergencies; or
4. Ordered by the Governor under a declared state of emergency.

Transparency and Reporting

- **Public Disclosure:** The JHPD is required to provide public access to certain law enforcement records, including department records related to an arrest for a criminal offense.
- **State-Mandated Annual Reporting:** As a state-authorized police department, the JHPD is required to comply with all applicable state reporting requirements, including reporting on use of force incidents, officer-involved deaths, and traffic stops. The JHPD also is subject to reporting requirements – beyond those currently required of other state-authorized law enforcement agencies – regarding recruitment efforts, department size, department funding, arrests, complaints, use of surveillance technologies, officer-involved shootings, officer discipline and demographic data on the JHPD security workforce. All data must be disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender, age, and when applicable, officer rank, and reported annually to the Mayor of Baltimore City, the Baltimore City Council, the Maryland General Assembly, and the Johns Hopkins University Police Accountability Board.

- **Independent Evaluation and Review:** The Act requires an independent evaluation and review of the JHPD within ten years, after which the General Assembly must act to extend or reauthorize the JHPD or it will terminate. The results of the evaluation and review will be publicly available.

Use of Technology

- **Body-Worn Cameras:** Officers are required to wear and use body-worn cameras. JHPD policies must also ensure the adoption and use of appropriate technologies.
- **Police Equipment:** The JHPD is prohibited from acquiring military grade vehicles or military grade hardware unless the items are available for commercial sale in Maryland.
- **Criminal Justice Information System:** Provides that it is the intent of the General Assembly that the JHPD functions as a criminal justice unit under the federal-state Criminal Justice Information System, adhering to the rules and regulations regarding criminal history record information and related data.

Public Accountability

The JHPD is subject to several layers of public accountability and oversight, including:

- **Johns Hopkins University Police Accountability Board:** JHU is required to establish a 15-member JHPD Police Accountability Board, which must meet regularly to review police department metrics around crime, assess current and prospective police department policies, procedures and training and provide recommendations to University leadership on current and prospective police department policies, procedures and training. The meeting minutes of the Board must be posted prominently on a public website and the University must acknowledge and respond to any recommendations from the Board within 120 days. Five seats on this Board are set aside for community members from the neighborhoods around Johns Hopkins' Homewood, East Baltimore, and Peabody campuses, including one member appointed by the Mayor and another appointed by the City Council president. One Board member must be a member of Johns Hopkins' Black Faculty and Staff Association. With the exception of the two members appointed by the Mayor and City Council President, all JHU Police Accountability Board members must be confirmed by the Senate of Maryland.
- **Civil Liability and Costs:** The JHPD does not have the state immunity protections that apply to state, municipal, and public university police departments in Maryland. JHU is responsible for all costs associated with the JHPD, and JHPD employees are not entitled to state personnel benefits.
- **State-Mandated Complaint Process:** The JHPD must establish a process that allows any person, including members of the police department and the public, to file complaints against JHPD officers. That process must ensure timely investigation of all

complaints regarding the JHPD and its employees. Annually, the JHPD must provide a description of the complaint process and a summary of complaint data – including the number, type and disposition of all complaints – to the Mayor of Baltimore City, the Baltimore City Council, the Maryland General Assembly, and the Johns Hopkins University Police Accountability Board.

- **Baltimore City Civilian Review Board:** The JHPD is subject to the jurisdiction of the Civilian Review Board of Baltimore City (CRB). The Civilian Review Board has the authority to process, investigate and evaluate complaints lodged by members of the public regarding abusive language, false arrest, false imprisonment, harassment or excessive force by police officers. Two other university police departments in Baltimore City are under the jurisdiction of the CRB: Baltimore City Community College and Morgan State University.
- **Johns Hopkins Police Department Hearing Board:** The JHPD is required to establish an administrative hearing board if disciplinary steps are recommended against an officer of the JHPD and that officer requests an administrative hearing by a hearing board. The hearing board must include up to two voting members of the public, which is the maximum allowable under Maryland law.¹

Workforce Standards, Recruitment, Hiring and Training

- **Training, Policies and Accreditation:** The JHPD must meet extensive training, policy development and third-party accreditation requirements, including:
 - Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission training and certification;
 - Policies, practices and training that ensure constitutional and community-oriented policing that:
 - advances impartial and non-discriminatory policing, including training on appropriate searches, preventing profiling, and implicit bias against racial, religious, sexual and other minorities;
 - ensures appropriate use of force and safe treatment of individuals in custody;
 - supports the lawful exercise of rights of free expression, particularly in the context of a university community;
 - promotes appropriate interactions with youth and individuals who are in crisis or have behavioral health or other disabilities;

¹ The Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021, c. 59, § 2, eff. July 1, 2022, repeals the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights ("LEOBR") and establishes a new discipline process (Administrative Charging Committee and Trial Board) for police officers. Under the new legislation, law enforcement agencies must establish a process to investigate citizen complaints; a county-level administrative charging committee and trial board process; a process for suspensions and terminations; designate a victims' rights advocate; and a database to track complaints. Complaints will no longer be heard by the administrative hearing board, but rather by a county-level Administrative Charging Committee and the law enforcement agency's Trial Board.

- builds trust between victims of sexual assault and the JHPD; and
 - promote community engagement; and
 - Standards for character, education, human relations, public relations, and experience for university police officers.
- **Limited Size of JHPD:** The JHPD may not employ more than 100 employees, and the University must continue to rely on unarmed security personnel across its Baltimore campuses.
- **Local Hiring and Recruitment:** The JHPD is required to promote recruiting and hiring of diverse candidates using local hiring and residency initiatives and make specific local hiring commitments, including:
 - Maintaining a 25% local residency requirement for JHPD officers within five years;
 - Tracking and public reporting of recruitment and workforce data; and
 - Hosting or participating in at least four job fairs in across Baltimore City each year to recruit and interview applicants for positions in the JHPD.