

2020 -- H 7589

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LC004498
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- SPECIAL POLICE FOR PRIVATE
INSTITUTIONS

Introduced By: Representative Christopher R. Blazewski

Date Introduced: February 13, 2020

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 12-2.1-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 12-2.1 entitled "Special
2 Police for Private Institutions" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **12-2.1-2. Powers of special police officers.**

4 (a) Upon issuance of a license as a special police officer under § 12-2.1-1, the person so
5 designated as a special police officer shall have the same immunities and may exercise, in and
6 upon the lands and buildings of the institution by which ~~he or she~~ the special police officer is
7 employed, and upon streets and highways immediately adjacent to ~~those lands~~ the institution's
8 lands and buildings, the same powers and authority of a police officer as are conferred by the
9 laws of this state upon members of the division of state police, including the power to arrest
10 persons for violation of state criminal statutes or for violation of city or town ordinances of the
11 city or town in which the institution is located. for the purpose of protecting the institution's
12 lands and buildings, students, employees and visitors in and upon those lands and buildings.

13 (b) If the institution has two (2) or more land areas or buildings separated by public or
14 private lands not owned by the institution, the special police officers appointed under § 12-2.1-1
15 shall also have jurisdiction in and upon the adjacent public street or highway corridors for travel
16 between the institution's properties. This jurisdiction is for the limited purpose of travel on those
17 public streets or highways between those land areas or buildings, and not for the exercise of the
18 powers and authority set forth in subsection (a) of this section, with the sole exception that those

1 [powers and authority may be exercised if, in the course of that travel, the special police officer](#)
2 [views a person or persons in danger of imminent bodily harm.](#)

3 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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1 This act would set forth the jurisdiction of special police officers at educational
2 institutions and upon the land and buildings thereof and would clarify and limit their jurisdiction
3 to instances where the officer views a person or persons in danger of imminent bodily harm, on
4 public streets and highway corridors between land areas and/or buildings owned by these
5 educational institutions.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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