



MARYLAND STATE POLICE



Maryland Department of State Police / Licensing Division
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ADVISORY

LD-PLU-26-001

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Security Guard Agencies employing Special Police Officers (SPO's)

On 12/16/2025, the Maryland General Assembly overrode the veto of Senate Bill 455 (2025). The new law allows licensed Security Guard Agencies to employ SPO's and becomes effective 01/16/2026. The Maryland Department of State Police Licensing Division (MDSPLD) is disseminating the following information to provide guidance for Security Guard Agencies employing Special Police Officers.

A Security Guard Agency that wishes to employ SPO's must have a SPO designation request submitted and approved by the Maryland State Police Licensing Division before any SPO applications can be approved. The SPO designation request shall be on agency letterhead and must include the following information:

- Business Name
- Business Address
- Lease, Deed or Contract for the property that the SPO will be have jurisdiction over
- Picture/s of the SPO patch and uniform
- Picture/s of the vehicle markings if applicable.

Please note, the patch and vehicle markings must clearly say "Special Police". The use of the Maryland State Seal or the words "State of Maryland" are prohibited by law. Security Guard Agencies shall submit this request via email to: mSP.professionallicensing@maryland.gov

Additional Leases, Deeds or Contracts that are acquired by the Security Guard Agency after submission of SPO designation requests, must be submitted to the MDSPLD Professional Licensing Unit before an SPO is authorized to work on that property.

Additional information can be found on the MDSP Licensing Division website at: [Maryland State Police Licensing Division](https://www.marylandstatepolice.org/Licensing-Division). Specific questions can be emailed to: mSP.professionallicensing@maryland.gov.

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