

2020 -- S 2415

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LC004635  
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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: Senator Gayle L. Goldin

Date Introduced: February 13, 2020

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

(by request)

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 upon  
6 the lands and buildings of the institution by which ~~he or she~~ the special police officer is employed,  
7 and upon streets and highways immediately adjacent to ~~those lands~~ the institution's lands and  
8 buildings, the same powers and authority of a police officer as are conferred by the laws of this  
9 state upon members of the division of state police, including the power to arrest persons for  
10 violation of state criminal statutes or for violation of city or town ordinances of the city or town in  
11 which the institution is located, for the purpose of protecting the institution's lands and buildings,  
12 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 institutions  
2 and upon the land and buildings thereof and would clarify and limit their jurisdiction to instances  
3 where the officer views a person or persons in danger of imminent bodily harm, on public streets  
4 and highway corridors between land areas and/or buildings owned by these educational institutions.  
5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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