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BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Fiscal Agency

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Senate Bill 254

Sponsor: Senator Jerome T. Hart

Committee: Education and Mental Health

Date Completed: 5-9-89

SUMMARY OF SENATE BILL 254 as introduced 3-16-89:

The bill would create an act to:

- Empower governing boards of public four-year higher education institutions to grant the institutions' public safety officers the same powers and authority as granted by law to peace and police officers.
- Permit public safety officers to enforce State law as well as ordinances of an institution.
- Establish the jurisdiction of the public safety officers.
- Set minimum employment standards for public safety officers.

Powers and Authority

Under the bill, the governing board of control of a public four-year institution of higher education, created under Article VIII of the 1963 State Constitution, could grant the public safety officers of the institution the same powers and authority as granted by law to peace and police officers, to enable the public safety officers to enforce State law and the ordinances and regulations of the institution.

Public safety officers to whom the powers and authority of peace and police officers were granted would be considered peace officers of the State and would have the authority of police officers as provided under the Michigan Vehicle Code.

Jurisdiction

The jurisdiction of public safety officers, granted the powers and authority prescribed in the bill, would include all property owned or leased by the institution or the governing board of control, wherever the property was situated in the State. This jurisdiction would extend to any public right of way traversing or immediately contiguous to the property. The jurisdiction could be extended by State law governing peace officers, if authorized by the governing board of control.

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Employment Standards

Public safety officers granted the powers and authority prescribed in the bill would be required to meet the minimum employment standards of the Michigan Law Enforcement Officers Training Council Act. (Under that Act, the Law Enforcement Council is charged with preparing minimum employment standards dealing with the physical, educational, mental, and moral fitness of a police officer, as well as approving police training schools, and establishing minimum courses of study and attendance requirements, among other responsibilities.)

Legislative Analyst: L. Arasim

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would result in no direct costs for the State but there could be revenue losses (offset by decreases in services required) for some units of local government that currently provide police protection on a university campus.

Since the bill would be permissive and only would allow governing boards of State universities to grant police officer authority to their public safety officers, any changes in responsibilities and/or costs would be dependent on which universities exercised this option. For example, Saginaw Valley State University is already authorized (under Public Act 21 of 1982) to establish a public safety department with police powers, and the school has done so. The public safety officers at Central, Eastern, Oakland, Western, and Michigan State University are deputized by the counties in which they reside. The University of Michigan-Ann Arbor has a contract with the City of Ann Arbor to allow the city to provide police protection on campus; Wayne State University's officers are deputized by the City of Detroit. Lake Superior State University has only its own non-deputized campus security force and receives no special assistance from the City of Sault Ste. Marie.

Fiscal Analyst: E. Jeffries

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