



Postsecondary Campus Safety 2022

Campus Police Forces

October 2022

This resource describes whether and how states and the District of Columbia have used statute and/or regulations to allow institutions or systems of higher education to create their own campus police forces. As presented below, at least 35 states and the District of Columbia address the creation of police forces and/or employment of police officers in statute and/or regulation. At least 29 of those states place authority to create/hire at the institutional entity level and at least four place that authority at the system-wide entity level. At least two states and the District of Columbia use another system: Connecticut statute itself creates police forces for University of Connecticut campuses and for 12 specified community colleges (if approved by the Board of Regents for Higher Education); the District of Columbia places this authority with the chief of police; and Maryland statute itself creates police forces for various institutions of higher education.

For more information on police, security forces and state education policy, please see data points on law enforcement involvement and school resource officers in the [K-12 School Safety 50-State Comparison](#) , the data point on law enforcement involvement in the [School Discipline Policies 50-State Comparison](#) , and the data point on law enforcement involvement in the [Campus Sexual Misconduct Policies 50-State Comparison](#) .

Return to the landing page of the [Postsecondary Campus Safety 50-State Comparison](#) .

STATE	Does state statute/regulation allow higher education institutions or systems to create their own campus police forces and/or employ police officers?	Source
Alabama	Yes. Statute allows the president or chief executive officers of a higher education institution to appoint and employ people to work as police officers for certain stated duties.	Ala. Code § 13A-11-61.2
Alaska	No policy identified.	

STATE	Does state statute/regulation allow higher education institutions or systems to create their own campus police forces and/or employ police officers?	Source
Arizona	Yes. Private postsecondary institutions with a dormitory and full-time residents may appoint people to be designated as peace officers to aid and supplement law enforcement.	Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 15-1897
Arkansas	No policy identified.	
California	Yes. The governing board of a community college district may establish a community college police department. The Regents of the University of California may appoint members to the University of California police department. Trustees of the California State University system may appoint individuals to constitute a police department for the headquarters and for each campus of the California State University.	Cal. Educ. Code § 72330 Cal. Penal Code § 830.32 Cal. Educ. Code § 92600 Cal. Educ. Code § 89560
Colorado	Yes. The state institutions of higher education are authorized to employ police officers.	Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 24-7.5-101 Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 16-2.5-148
Connecticut	Yes. Statute establishes special police forces for the University of Connecticut campuses. Subject to the approval of the Board of Regents for Higher Education, statute also creates special police forces for 12 named community colleges.	Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 10a-156b
Delaware	Yes. Statute separately authorizes the University of Delaware and Delaware State University to appoint as many police officers as are necessary to preserve the peace and good order.	Del. Code Ann. tit. 14, § 6503 Del. Code Ann. tit. 14, § 5104
District of Columbia	Yes. The Chief of Police may appoint campus and university special police officers for duty in connection with the property of, or under the charge of, an academic institution of higher education requesting the appointment.	D.C. Mun. Regs. tit. 6-A, § 1200
Florida	Yes. Each university is empowered and directed to provide for police officers.	Fla. Stat. Ann. § 1012.97
Georgia	Yes. Educational facilities may employ campus policemen.	Ga. Code Ann. § 20-8-1 et seq.
Hawaii	No policy identified.	

STATE	Does state statute/regulation allow higher education institutions or systems to create their own campus police forces and/or employ police officers?	Source
Idaho	No policy identified.	
Illinois	Yes. Statute enables the board of trustees of a private college or university to appoint people to be members of a campus police department. Separately, statute grants this same authority to the University of Illinois, Chicago State University, the University of Southern Illinois, public community colleges, et al.	110 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 1020/1 110 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 305/7 110 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 660/5-45 110 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 520/8 110 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 805/3-42.1
Indiana	Yes. The governing board of an educational institution may appoint police officers and prescribe their duties and conduct.	IC 21-17-5
Iowa	No policy identified.	
Kansas	Yes. Statute enables the board of trustees of any community college to employ school security officers, any of whom may be designated as campus police officers. Separately, statute enables the chief executive officer of any state educational institution to employ university police officers.	Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-6146 Kan. Stat. Ann. § 76-726 Kan. Stat. Ann. § 22-2401a
Kentucky	Yes. Governing boards of public postsecondary education institutions may create police departments.	Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 164.955
Louisiana	Yes. Chief administrative officers of educational institutions may authorize college or university police officers.	La. Stat. Ann. § 17:1805
Maine	No policy identified.	Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 20-A, § 12981

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Maryland	Yes. Statute separately creates police forces for the University of Maryland, Morgan State University, Baltimore City Community College, Hagerstown Community College, et al. Statute creates requirements for a police force at Johns Hopkins University if that university chooses to establish one.	Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 13-601 Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 14-106 Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 16-513 Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 16-407.1 Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 16-407.2 Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 24-1203
Massachusetts	No policy identified.	
Michigan	No policy identified.	
Minnesota	No policy identified.	
Mississippi	Yes. Statute allows the boards of trustees of state institutions of higher learning to appoint peace officers.	Miss. Code. Ann. § 37-105-9 Miss. Code. Ann. § 37-29-275
Missouri	Yes. The board of regents or board of governors of any state college or university may appoint and employ as many college or university police officers as it deems necessary.	Mo. Ann. Stat. § 174.700
Montana	No policy identified. However, statute enables the regents of the Montana university system to appoint members of security departments.	Mont. Code Ann. § 20-25-321
Nebraska	No policy identified.	
Nevada	Yes. The board of regents may create a police department for the Nevada System of Higher Education and appoint members.	Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 396.325 Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 289.350
New Hampshire	No policy identified.	

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New Jersey	Yes. The governing body of any institution of higher education, academy, school, or other institution of learning may appoint people to act as policemen for the institution.	N.J. Stat. Ann. § 18A:6-4.2
New Mexico	Yes. The governing board of a post-secondary educational institution may employ and assign duties to people as campus police officers for community colleges and as university police officers.	N.M. Stat. Ann. § 29-5-3 N.M. Stat. Ann. § 29-5-2
New York	Yes. State university trustees are authorized and empowered to appoint university police officers.	N.Y. Educ. Law § 355
North Carolina	Yes. The board of trustees of any constituent institution of the University of North Carolina may establish a campus law enforcement agency and employ campus police officers. The Attorney General has authority to certify a private, nonprofit institution of higher education as a campus police agency and to commission an individual as a campus police officer.	N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 116-40.5 N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 74G-1 et seq.
North Dakota	Yes. The state board of higher education may authorize the employment of law enforcement officers having jurisdiction on property owned or leased by the board.	N.D. Cent. Code Ann. § 15-10-17
Ohio	Yes. The board of trustees of a state university, community college, technical college and other specified institutions may designate employees as state university law enforcement officers. Additionally, the board of trustees of a private college or university may establish a campus police department and appoint members to act as police officers.	Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3345.04 Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 1713.50
Oklahoma	Yes. Governing boards of institutions of higher education are authorized to establish campus police departments, and may employ and commission police officers.	Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 74, § 360.18
Oregon	Yes. The governing board of a public university may authorize the university to establish a police department and commission employees as police officers.	Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 352.121 Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 353.125
Pennsylvania	No policy identified.	P.L. 233, No. 64 (1929 Act 175, Sections 2416 and 2416.1)

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Rhode Island	Yes. The board of governors for higher education may appoint police officers.	16 R.I. Gen. Laws Ann. § 16-52-2
South Carolina	Yes. The board of trustees of each college or university may employ campus police officers.	S.C. Code Ann. § 59-116-20
South Dakota	No policy identified.	
Tennessee	Yes. The governing boards of public institutions may employ and commission police officers. Private institutions may do the same, but only if the institution has an enrollment of at least 9,000 students and meets other criteria in statute.	Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-7-118
Texas	Yes. The governing boards of public state institutions, public technical institutes, private institutions and private junior colleges may employ peace officers.	Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 51.203 Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 51.212
Utah	Yes. The Utah Board of Higher Education may establish and maintain police or security departments.	Utah Code Ann. § 53B-3-104
Vermont	Yes. The University of Vermont Board of Trustees may establish a Department of Police Services and appoint officers.	Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 16, § 2283
Virginia	Yes. The governing board of each public institution may establish a campus police department.	Va. Code Ann. § 23.1-809
Washington	Yes. The board of regents of state universities, the board of trustees of regional universities and the board of trustees at Evergreen State College may establish their own police forces.	Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 28B.10.550
West Virginia	Yes. The governing board of an institution may appoint qualified individuals to serve as campus police officers.	W. Va. Code Ann. § 18B-4-5
Wisconsin	Yes. The University of Wisconsin board of regents may employ police or contract for police.	Wis. Stat. Ann. § 36.11

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Wyoming	No policy identified	
Total answers	Yes: No policy identified:	36 15