



**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF
PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY**

**Special Conservators of the Peace (SCOP)
Task Force**

September 29, 2014

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Appointment Process and Court Orders

Should the designation of SCOP status remain with the Circuit Courts?

If yes:

- Should the current system remain in place?
- Should a full background check be required?
- What should the length of appointment be?
- What should be the jurisdiction of Appointment (individual locality, circuit or other?)
- What entities should be notified of the appointment?

If no:

- Should the appointing authority be legislative, regulatory or other?

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Jurisdiction and Appearance

- Should SCOPs working for private corporations be limited to enforcing laws on the corporation's real property?
- Should courts be authorized to appoint SCOPs who operate in other business locations outside of the court's jurisdiction?
- What traditional indicators of authority utilized by SCOPs (Seal of the Commonwealth, lights, sirens, insignias, badges) should be displayed on SCOP identification, uniforms and vehicles?

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Registration and Regulation

- Should anyone be exempt from registration with DCJS?
- Should entities (including private police departments) employing SCOPS be regulated?
- Should companies that provide contract SCOP services to other businesses or entities be regulated?

Current Exemptions:

- Regular Conservators of the Peace
- Currently employed law enforcement officers
- Private security services personnel
- Public and privately owned criminal justice agencies with authorized access to VCIN and employing SCOPs trained as law enforcement officers

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Training

- Should there be a difference in the training hours required for armed versus unarmed SCOPS?
- What are the minimum number of hours necessary for SCOPS to effectively and safely perform their duties?

Current requirements:

- 24 hours unarmed/40 hours armed = SCOP
- 580-1200 hours = Law Enforcement
- 50-53 hours = Armed Security Guard