

In each county there is a County Welfare Board, constituting an administrative department of the local government, which administers under the supervision and control of the State Department the welfare activities within each county, including the care of neglected, dependent, and delinquent children. Each County Board consists of six persons appointed for six-year terms by the Board of County Commissioners or County Council and one County Commissioner or County Council member chosen yearly by the Board of County Commissioners (Code 1957, Art. 88A, secs. 13, 14.)

The Department investigates the public and private institutions, organizations, and agencies of a charitable nature in the State of Maryland, including those which receive part of their income from the State, but excepting those placed by law under the supervision of another State agency. Each year before the General Assembly convenes, the Director reports to the Governor on activities of the Department and the conditions of all charitable institutions, organizations, and agencies (excepting hospitals) that receive financial aid from the State, and recommends appropriations (Code 1957, Art. 88A, sec. 3). All monies appropriated to institutions, organizations, and agencies, excepting hospitals, are paid on a per capita basis at the rates and subject to regulations established by the State Board of Public Welfare (Code 1957, Art. 88A, sec. 10).

The Department is authorized to establish a central registry of records for the purpose of locating deserting or absent parents of children who are likely, or liable to be, recipients of public assistance or foster care (Code 1957, 1965 Supp., Art. 88A, sec. 5A).

The Department administers the child care laws that regulate child placement in Maryland. It licenses agencies and institutions having the care and custody of minors (Code 1957, Art. 88A, secs. 19, 32).

The Department supervises the four State training schools. In developing the program within each training school, including provisions for after-care supervision, the Department establishes regulations, standards of care, policy of admissions, transfer and discharge, and may order changes in policy or management. Subject to these limitations three of the schools are under the general management of Boards of Managers, while the fourth school operates under direct management of the Department and is served by an Advisory Board of nine members. The Governor appoints the nine members of each Board for terms of six years, so staggered that the terms of at least three members expire every two years (Code 1957, 1965 Supp., Art. 88A, secs. 33-38A).

The Department also administers and supervises the four Forestry Camps for delinquent boys. These Camps have a single advisory board made up of eight members appointed by the Governor from the geographical area in which the camps are located. The Superintendent of the Camp and a district forester are ex officio members. The Department is authorized by law to transfer to these Camps boys from either Boys' Village, Victor Cullen, or the Maryland Training School for Boys who, in its judgment, may benefit from such care (Code 1957, Art. 88A, sec. 39).

In addition the Department administers the Maryland Children's Center, opened in 1959, which is a facility for short-term detention and study of boys judged delinquent by the Courts. An Advisory Board, composed of nine members appointed by the Governor for six-year staggered terms, assists the Department of Public Welfare in presenting the objectives of the Center to the public and generally advises the Department and the superintendent of the Center (Code 1957, 1965 Supp., Art. 88A, secs. 39A, 39B).