

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND STATE POLICE

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The Department of Maryland State Police, originally established by Chapter 303, Acts of 1935, had its functions recodified by Chapter 547, Acts of 1968. The Agency is charged with the enforcement of the motor vehicle and criminal laws of the State, and more specifically, to safeguard the lives and safety of all persons within the State, to protect property, and to assist in securing to all persons the equal protection of law. The Agency also has the responsibility to preserve the public peace, to detect and prevent crime, to enforce the laws and ordinances of the State and its local subdivisions; to apprehend and arrest criminals and those who violate or are lawfully accused of violating such laws and ordinances, to preserve order in public places, to maintain the safe and orderly flow of traffic on public streets and highways; to cooperate with and assist law enforcement agencies in carrying out their duties, and to discharge its duties and responsibilities with the dignity and manner which will inspire public confidence and respect.

The Agency has State-wide jurisdiction except in incorporated municipalities. Within such municipalities its jurisdiction is limited to (1) when in pursuit of an offender or suspected offender; or (2) when in search of an offender or suspected offender wanted for a crime committed outside of the limits of the municipality, or when interviewing or seeking to interview a witness or supposed witness to such a crime; or (3) when requested to act by the chief executive officer of the municipality in question or its chief police officer; or (4) when ordered by the Governor, to act within the municipality in question; or (5) when enforcing the motor vehicle laws of this State (Code 1957, 1969 Repl. Vol., Art. 88B, secs. 3, 4, 20, 23).

The Agency is directed by the Superintendent, who is appointed by the Governor by and with the advice and consent of the Senate to serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Chapter 547, Acts of 1968 also provided for the appointment of a Deputy Superintendent, who is designated by the Superintendent, with the approval of the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, to serve in this capacity (Code 1957, 1969 Repl. Vol., Art. 88B, secs. 14 and 16).

The Investigation and Identification Services Division of the State Police maintains detailed files and records and cooperates with other law enforcement agencies in the exchange of information relating to crime and criminals. In 1966, a State Central Crime Records Bureau was established in the State Police, and this Bureau is the repository for criminal data resulting from the submission of fingerprints and related information by law enforcement agencies and penal institutions throughout the State. For the purpose of uniform crime reporting, the Bureau also maintains statistical data on crime within the State.

The Agency is also charged with the licensing of private detectives (Code 1957, 1968 Repl. Vol., and 1970 Supp., Art. 56, secs. 75-91), as well as with the registration of firearms (Code 1957, 1971 Repl. Vol., Art. 27, secs. 442-443).

Legislation in 1965 gave the State Police responsibility for licensing qualified garages and other facilities to make inspections and corrections of equipment and mechanisms and to certify that used motor vehicles, for which titles are sought, meet the equipment standards