

The staff of the Division of Correction plans, establishes, and directs programs of administration for State correctional facilities. The institutions carry on programs of classification, education, vocational training, employment, substance abuse counseling, psychological/psychiatric intervention, security, and all necessary support services for residential housing.

Chapter 695, Acts of 1967, provided that all criminals sentenced after June 1, 1967, be committed to the Division of Correction, formerly the Department of Correctional Services, and authorized the Department to establish receiving and classification centers for prisoners. On June 1, 1967, the Department established a Reception Center at the Maryland Penitentiary for male inmates and a Reception Center at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women—Jessup, for female inmates. After diagnostic evaluation and classification, the inmate is assigned to one of the institutions of the Division (Code 1957, Art. 27, secs. 689 (g), 690, 691–700 (a), 701–702).

By Chapter 285, Acts of 1963, the Work Release Program was established (Code 1957, Art. 27, sec. 700A). Prisoners sentenced to an institution under the jurisdiction of the Division of Correction may leave actual confinement during necessary and reasonable hours to work at gainful employment in the community. They return to the institution at the end of the work day. Chapter 551, Acts of 1968, extended this privilege to include attendance at school as part of a Work Release Program. Under certain conditions, the Commissioner of Correction may authorize special leave for prisoners to seek employment or participate in special community rehabilitation programs. Weekend leaves also may be granted under certain conditions by Chapters 448 and 449, Acts of 1969 (Code 1957, Art. 27, secs. 700A and 700C).

The institutions and pre-release units have well-developed programs of employment. Inmates are assigned to a wide variety of institutional maintenance tasks, as well as to the diversified State Use Industries Program. Opportunities for the development and reactivation of useful and economically profitable occupational skills are available. These programs also provide necessary goods and services to the public agencies eligible to purchase them. Several of the institutions operate laundries, which serve both the institutions and other State agencies and institutions.

Educational activities include academic instruction on both elementary and secondary school levels, varied opportunities for advanced and specialized study (including programmed instruction in the various pre-release facilities in preparation

for obtaining high school equivalency certificates), and programs of vocational and on-the-job training.

In 1976, the Educational Coordinating Council for Correctional Institutions was created under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Chapter 539, Acts of 1976). The Commissioner of Correction is a member of the Council. For administrative and budgetary purposes, the Council is within the State Department of Education. Taking into account the special needs and circumstances of the inmates, the Council develops and recommends educational programs for each correctional institution. Since 1978, funds for the operation of these educational programs are provided in the State budget for the State Department of Education. The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and other State departments may contribute to these programs as provided in the State budget. The Director of Educational Programs is appointed by the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Education Article, secs. 22-101, 102).

Professional staffs render medical, psychiatric, and psychological services in the institutions. The institutions and pre-release units have complete programs of religious activities, and supervised recreational programs are conducted at all correctional facilities.

Chapter 535, Acts of 1980 established the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards, removing the function of jail programming and inspection officer from the responsibility of the Division of Correction and placing it with the Correctional Standards Commission, which is an agency of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

Chapter 481, Acts of 1968, provides for the establishment of regional detention centers, which are facilities operated by one or more counties for the purpose of detention and confinement. Chapter 540, Acts of 1968, included these regional detention facilities as installations under the general supervision of the Jail Programming and Inspection Officer (Code 1957, Art. 27, secs. 704–705).

In October 1971, the Governor authorized the formation of a Community Corrections Task Force within the Maryland Division of Correction. Its charge was to develop a Statewide Community Corrections program, emphasizing alternatives to incarceration as well as appropriate classification and treatment of offenders through community correctional centers, which would cause the maximum utilization of community resources.