

40 troopers, 20 for a full year and 20 for the last half of the fiscal year, to supplement the present force of 511. Additional civilian personnel also is recommended.

Our program for the modernization of the State roads system, started in 1953, now enters its sixth year. The State Roads Commission will report to you during this session on the progress of the program and will submit to you a schedule of projects planned to be advertised in this calendar year.

For the Department of Health and the vast program it carries on for the health of our citizens, I have proposed an overall budget increase of \$3,493,374. This will include more money for program planning and research, for medical care, for general local health services, for hospital in-patient and out-patient programs, for chronic disease hospitals and for certain special types of care.

I am acutely aware of the problem of mental health in Maryland and the need for more facilities and personnel. Provision is made in this budget for staffing, equipping and operating new rehabilitation buildings at Crownsville and Spring Grove hospitals, an industrial building for the long term colony at Rosewood and the new Maximum Security Hospital at Jessup. In our program of mental health, I have proposed 213 new positions, which, together with standard salary scale requirements, account for \$1,466,436 of the agency's total general fund increase of \$1,654,196.

Likewise, allowance has been made for improvements in our public welfare program, including a restoration of cuts in the welfare food allowance made by this Legislature last year. Calculated on the current Federal matching basis, the budget I am recommending calls for a net increase for headquarters and public assistance of \$2,676,229.

To carry on the vital work of rehabilitating our delinquent children, increased appropriations are proposed for the four training schools, the three forestry camps and the Maryland Children's Center. Of the total increase of \$384,465 for these institutions, \$142,114 is for 35 positions and \$11,504 for operating expenses of the new Maryland Children's Center.

To take care of our increasing prison population, provision has been made in this budget for additional custodial officers and other personnel at the Maryland Penitentiary, the Patuxent Institution, the House of Correction, the Reformatory for Males and the Reformatory for Women.

Consideration has been given to the urgent need for improvements