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The Department of Health, established in 1874, is governed by the State Board of Health. The Board is composed of the Director of the Department of Health, who also serves as its chairman, the Commissioner of Health of Baltimore City and six members appointed by the Governor for a term of six years (Code 1947 Supp., Art. 43, sec. 4).

The Department of Health functions through twenty-three sanitary districts organized throughout the State along county lines and through the health department organized in each of the counties. Each county health department is in charge of a Health Officer who also serves as the Deputy State Health Officer for his district. For regulatory purposes, the Montgomery County Council and the Board of County Commissioners in each of the other counties serves ex-officio as the county board of health (Code 1939, 1947 Supp., Art. 43, secs. 6-10, 45-50, 52; Acts 1949, Ch. 89).

Within the Executive office work regarding Public Health Education, nutrition and dietetics is carried on. The Public Health Education program includes assembling and distributing information on health promotion and disease prevention; preparing press releases, issuing a monthly bulletin; and compiling reports and other printed materials concerning the work of the Department. The Nutrition Program is educational. It stresses the need for adequate and well-balanced diets, and provides consultation in county and school clinics. The Consultant Dietitian is concerned with improving the diets in hospitals and institutions, particularly in the State tuberculosis hospitals.

Eight bureaus established by Acts of the General Assembly function within the State Department of Health (Code 1939 & 1947 Supp., Art. 43, secs. 33 & 191). Each is responsible for a particular phase of the public health program.

The Bureau of Communicable diseases, authorized by law in 1910, investigates the occurrence, distribution, and types of communicable diseases reported in the communities, assists the local health authorities and private physicians in diagnosis of such diseases, aids in the finding of unreported cases, and gives advice on the collection of laboratory specimens. The Bureau also administers the Pasteur treatment to those who may have been exposed to rabies, distributes free vaccine upon request of private physicians, and sponsors a venereal