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The Department of State Police was established in 1935. The Department is under the direction of the Superintendent who is appointed by the Governor for a term of four years. The Maryland State Police are responsible for the enforcement of the criminal and motor vehicle laws of the State. The Police have jurisdiction in all parts of the State except within the limits of any incorporated municipality which maintains a police force, save (1) when in pursuit of an offender or suspected offender; (2) in search of an offender or suspect wanted for a crime committed in another jurisdiction; (3) when seeking to interview a witness to a crime; (4) when requested by the chief executive officer or the chief police officer of the municipality, or when ordered by the Governor; or (5) when enforcing the motor vehicle laws of the State (Code 1951, Art. 88B, secs. 3, 4, 19, 23). The Department also licenses all private detectives within the State (Code 1951, Art. 56, sec. 65).

To aid in the carrying on of its work, the Department operates an Identification and Investigation Division. The Division maintains fingerprint and photograph files and cooperates with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the police forces of other jurisdictions in the exchange of information relating to the identification of offenders or suspects. The General Assembly in 1953 authorized the establishment of the Central Accident Records Bureau. This Bureau receives reports of accidents from the various local police departments throughout the State, tabulating and analyzing such reports and preparing a monthly summary and analysis of all accidents which is published in cooperation with the Maryland Traffic Safety Commission. A Traffic Staff has been organized within the Department for the purpose of promoting traffic safety and traffic safety educational programs. The members of the staff speak before civic groups and organizations and plan to build a library of motion pictures and related visual aids to augment its works (Code 1951, Art. 88B, secs. 42-47; Acts 1953, ch. 770).

The Communication Bureau, established in 1935, provides radio and teletype communication service with the various police barracks throughout the State. It is a unit in a teletype network covering fourteen States and the District of Columbia. The Bureau also provides radio communication service to the patrol boats of the Department of Tidewater Fisheries. Through the Communication service the latest weather forecasts are transmitted to the local barracks for dispatch to County Agricultural Agents; such reports are also transmitted to the District headquarters of the State Roads Commission. The Department provides ambulance service to rural areas as well as emergency service in the case of accidents. It maintains ten ambulances throughout the State for this purpose. A Training School