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Prior to 1916, the Maryland Penitentiary and the Maryland House of Correction were autonomous institutions operating under the jurisdiction of a separate Board of Directors and a Board of Managers appointed by the Governor. By Chapter 556, Acts of 1916, these institutions were administered by the State Board of Prison Control. By Chapter 29, Acts of 1922, the Board of Welfare superseded the Board of Prison Control and administered the prisons. By Chapter 69, Acts of 1939, the Department of Correction and the Board of Correction assumed all rights, powers, and duties which had formerly been vested in the Board of Welfare.

By Chapter 758, Acts of 1953, the Superintendent of Prisons became the administrator of the Department. The Board of Correction established departmental policies and appointed the executive personnel of the institutions under the jurisdiction of the Department on the recommendations made by the Superintendent of Prisons (Code 1957, Art. 27, secs. 667, 669-71, 675, 677). The 1962 General Assembly repealed Article 27, Sections 667-710, of the 1957 Code and 1961 Supplement and enacted new Sections 667 to 704, inclusive, to revise and change the laws governing the administration of the Department of Correction. Chapter 123 of the Acts of 1962 established the Advisory Board and created the office of Commissioner of Correction.

The Advisory Board consists of a Chairman and six associate members, at least one of whom must be a woman, and the Chairman of the Board of Parole and Probation as an ex officio member. The members are appointed by the Governor for four-year terms. The Board studies and observes procedures in and the development of progress of the penal system. It may make suggestions and give advice to the Commissioner of Correction as to the operations and administration of the Department and of its several institutions and agencies.

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 123 of the Acts of 1962, the Commissioner of Correction is appointed by the Governor, by and with the consent and advice of the Senate. In the operation and conduct of the Department, the Commissioner is responsible solely to the Governor (Code 1957, 1962 Supp., Art. 27, secs. 667-704).

The staff of the Department of Correction plans, establishes, and directs programs of administration for the various correctional facilities. The institutions carry on a program of classification, education and vocational training, employment, and the other segments of rehabilitative treatment.

The institutions and camps have well-developed programs of employment. Inmates are assigned to a wide variety of institutional maintenance tasks, farming and dairying activities, and to work in the diversified State Use Industries Program of the Department of Correction.

The State Use Industries present opportunities for the development and reactivation of useful and economically profitable occupational skills. The programs also provide necessary goods and services to public agencies eligible to purchase them. Each institution operates a laundry which serves both the institution and other State agencies and institutions.

The Division of Classification and Education supervises the collection and recording of all information necessary to permit the proper classification of inmates, at each institution, according to their abilities and to aid in their rehabilitation. Educational activities include aca-