

Chapter 695, Acts of 1967 provided that all criminals sentenced after June 1, 1967 be committed to 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 then assigned to one of the institutions of the Department of Correctional Services (Code 1957, 1967 Repl. Vol., 1968 Supp., Art. 27, secs. 689(g), 690, 691-700(a), 701-702).

By Chapter 285, Acts of 1963, the Work Release Law was established (Code 1957, 1967 Repl. Vol., Art. 27, sec. 700A). The Work Release Program allows prisoners sentenced to an institution under the jurisdiction of the Department of Correctional Services to leave actual confinement during necessary and reasonable hours for the purpose of working at gainful employment in the State and to 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. Recent amendments, among other things, provide that the Commissioner of Correction may authorize under certain conditions special leave for the purpose of seeking employment and, further, that individuals or small groups of prisoners may leave confinement to participate in special community programs for rehabilitation; and also provide for weekend leaves, again, under certain conditions (Chapter 448 and Chapter 449, Acts of 1969).

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 Correctional Services.

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 several laundries which serve both the institutions 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 academic instruction on both the elementary and secondary school levels, varied opportunities for advanced and specialized study, and programs of vocational and on-the-job training.

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

By Chapter 696, Acts of 1967, the General Assembly created the position of Jail Programming and Inspection Officer, whose duty it is to submit to the Department of Correctional Services for approval regulations covering minimum standards for jails and other places of detention or confinement in the various counties and Baltimore City. He is charged with making the annual inspection of these facilities. He then must submit a report with his recommendations to the governing body of the county or to the Mayor and the City Council of Baltimore showing the results of his inspection, together with recommendations for improvement. He also serves as a member of the Coordinating Council for Correctional Services (Code 1957, 1967 Repl. Vol., 1968 Supp., Art. 27, sec. 704).