

Patuxent Institution

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Patuxent Institution, authorized by Chapter 476, Acts of 1951, was formally opened on January 3, 1955, under the administrative control of the Department of Correction. By Chapter 629, Acts of 1961, the Institution became an autonomous agency of the State under the control of the Board of Patuxent Institution. This Board consists of a Chairman and four associate members, all appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate for four-year terms. By law, two of the members of this Board must be chosen from the membership of the Advisory Board for Defective Delinquents, and of these, one must be a psychiatrist. The Board determines institution policy concerning the management, control, and supervision of the Institution and has full power to make, repeal or amend any rule or regulation for the operation, discipline, and administration of the Institution.

The Director is the chief administrative officer of the Institution. He must be a trained, able, and competent psychiatrist with at least five years' experience in the practice of teaching of psychiatry. There are three Associate Directors, one of whom must be a trained psychiatrist with at least three years' experience in the practice or teaching of psychiatry; one of whom must be a trained behavioral scientist with at least three years' experience in the practice or teaching of his specialty, and the third is charged, under the Director, with the custodial duties of the institution. Chapter 115, Acts of 1969 modified the requirements for the two associate director positions from two psychiatrists to one psychiatrist and one behavioral scientist.

Patuxent Institution is charged with the responsibility for the confinement and treatment, when appropriate, of adult criminal offenders classified as defective delinquents under Article 31B of the Maryland Code. It is also charged with the confinement and diagnosis of offenders referred to the Institution by the Courts for determination of their condition under that statute. The Institution conducts a thorough psychiatric evaluation of each offender so referred and renders a formal opinion to the Court of jurisdiction. Should the Institution recommend against continued confinement at the Institution, the Court returns the offender to the correctional system institution from whence he came. If the Institution recommends that the offender be confined at the Institution, the Court promptly provides a hearing; sitting as a Court or with a Jury, as the defendant may choose, and must find by a special verdict whether or not the offender is a defective delinquent as defined in Article 31B. A defective delinquent is defined as "an individual who, by the demonstration of persistent aggravated antisocial or criminal behavior, evidences a propensity toward criminal activity, and who is found to have either such intellectual deficiency or emotional unbalance, or both, as to clearly demonstrate an actual danger to society so as to require such confinement and treatment, when appropriate, as may make it reasonably safe for society to terminate the confinement and treatment." Sentences under Article 31B are for indeterminate duration, subject to the order of the Institutional Board of Review or the Courts. The Institution offers complete medical, psychiatric, psychological, and social casework services. In addition the Institution is equipped and staffed for complete academic, vocational, recreational, and religious service.