

By Chapter 285, Acts of 1963, the Work Release Law was established (Code 1957, 1971 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 by Chapter 448 and Chapter 449, Acts of 1969 (Code 1957, 1971 Repl. Vol., Art. 27, secs. 700A and 700C).

The institutions and camps have well-developed programs of employment. Inmates are assigned to a wide variety of institutional maintenance tasks, as well as to the diversified State Use Industries Program. Opportunities for the development and reactivation of useful and economically profitable occupational skills are available. The programs also provide necessary goods and services to the public agencies eligible to purchase them. Several of the institutions operate laundries which serve both the institutions and other State agencies and institutions.

Educational activities include academic instruction on both elementary and secondary school levels, varied opportunities for advanced and specialized study, including programmed instruction in the various camp facilities in preparation of achieving high school equivalency certificates, 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 Division of Correction 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 (Code 1957, 1971 Repl. Vol., Art. 27, sec. 704).

Chapter 481, Acts of 1968 provided for the establishment of Regional Detention Centers which are facilities operated by one or more counties for the purpose of detention and confinement. Chapter 540, Acts of 1968 included these regional detention facilities as installations under the general supervision of the Jail Programming and Inspection Officer (Code 1957, 1971 Repl. Vol., Art. 27, secs. 704-705).

Appropriations	1971	1972
General Funds	\$842,887	\$984,981
Staff: General Funds Budget, 1971: 51; 1972: 62.		
State Use Industries, 1971: 27; 1972: 24.		