

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES**

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The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services was created by Chapter 401, Acts of 1970, effective July 1, 1970. The head of the Department is the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services who is appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Secretary serves at the pleasure of the Governor. The Deputy Secretary for Public Safety and the Deputy Secretary for Correctional Services are appointed by the Secretary, with the approval of the Governor, and serve at the pleasure of the Secretary.

The following agencies, boards, and commissions became a part of the Department when it was formed on July 1, 1970: The State Civil Defense and Emergency Planning Agency, Civil Defense Advisory Council, Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, State Fire Prevention Commission, State Fire Marshal, Police Training Commission, Traffic Safety Commission, Maryland State Police, Division of Correction, Division of Parole and Probation, Board of Parole, Advisory Board for Correction, Parole and Probation, Patuxent Institution, Board of Patuxent Institution, Institutional Board of Review, Advisory Board for Defective Delinquents, and Sundry Claims Board. On July 1, 1971, the Correctional Training Commission and the Inmate Grievance Commission became a part of the Department. On March 27, 1972, the Handgun Permit Review Board was established as an agency of the Department. The Traffic Safety Commission was abolished on July 1, 1972 by Chapter 446, Acts of 1972.

The Secretary is directly responsible to the Governor. He is required to counsel and advise the Governor on all matters assigned to the Department; and he is responsible for carrying out the Governor's policies in the areas of public safety, law enforcement, crime prevention, correction, parole and probation, and the treatment of defective delinquents. He has the responsibility to establish guidelines and procedures to promote the orderly and efficient administration of the agencies, boards, commissions, etc., within the Department. In addition, the Secretary is responsible for the budgets, rules and regulations, and planning activities of the Department and the sub-units within the Department.

The Department also administers the Data Center for public safety, law enforcement, and correctional agencies within the State. The Data Center currently provides data processing services to the State Police, Division of Correction, Division of Parole and Probation, Patuxent Institution, Juvenile Services, and local agencies. It provides computer-to-computer data transmission between these agencies and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, State Motor Vehicle Administration, Baltimore City Police Department, and the Washington, D. C. area law enforcement computer system, furnishing law enforcement and other data stored in these systems to the inquiring agency (Code 1957, 1971 Repl. Vol., Art. 41, secs. 204-204E).