

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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The Department of Agriculture was created by Chapter 342 of the Acts of 1972 and became operational on January 1, 1973. The head of the Department is the Secretary of Agriculture, who is appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Secretary serves at the pleasure of the Governor and is directly responsible to the Governor. The Deputy Secretary is appointed by the Secretary with the approval of the Governor and serves at the pleasure of the Secretary. All staff assistants in the Secretary's Office in charge of particular areas of responsibility serve at the pleasure of the Secretary.

The Department of Agriculture is a consolidation of the duties and functions previously performed by the now-abolished Maryland State Board of Agriculture which was composed of the Board of Regents of the University of Maryland.

The Department of Agriculture consists of the following offices, boards, commissions, departments and agencies: The Inspector of Tobacco, The Tobacco Authority of the State of Maryland, The Maryland State Fair Board, The Maryland State Apple Commission, The State Superintendent of Weights and Measures, The State Chemist, The State Veterinarian, The State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, The Wholesome Meat Advisory Council of Maryland, The State Soil Conservation Committee, The Board of Review of the Department of Agriculture and The Maryland Agricultural Commission.

In addition, the following agencies were abolished and their functions transferred to the Department of Agriculture: The State Horticultural Department, The State Entomologist, The State Pathologist, The State Horticulturist, The Department of Drainage, The State Drainage Engineer and the Maryland State Department of Markets (Chapter 6, Acts of the Special Session of 1973; Agriculture Article 2-101 to 2-107).

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Secretary advises the Governor on all matters assigned to the Department of Agriculture and is responsible for carrying out the Governor's policies with respect to these matters. The Secretary is responsible for the operation of the Department and establishes guidelines and procedures to promote the orderly and efficient administration of the Department.

The Secretary is responsible for the budget of his office and for the budgets of units within the Department. He may adopt rules and regulations to carry out the duties of his office. He may create advisory boards, providing that at least one member of the Maryland Agricultural Commission is included on each such board. He is responsible for the coordination and direction of comprehensive planning, proposals and projects of each unit and position within the Department. He may call meetings of any unit within the Department when necessary. Finally, the Secretary has general supervision, direction and control of all provisions of the laws creating and governing the Department, and generally of all matters in any way affecting or relating to the fostering, protection, and development of agricultural interests in the State (Agriculture Article, secs. 2-102 to 2-104).