

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**

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The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene was created by Chapter 77, Acts of 1969. The head of the Department is the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene who is appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, and who serves at his pleasure. The Deputy Secretary is appointed by the Secretary with the approval of the Governor and serves at his pleasure. The three Assistant Secretaries are appointed by the Secretary.

In 1971, the Department was reorganized by Executive Order of the Secretary into six major offices within the Office of the Secretary to bring about clearly established major areas of responsibility that were formerly fragmented and scattered. These offices control the activities of the Department, and supersede the formerly separate State Department of Health, originally established by Chapter 200, Acts of 1874, the Drug Abuse Authority, the State Department of Juvenile Services and the Department of Mental Hygiene.

Included in the Secretariat are the Offices of General Administration, Program Services, Medical Care Services, Legal Services, Community Relations and Special Services. Also reporting directly to the Office of the Secretary are the Board of Review, and advisory councils, created by law or by order of the Secretary.

The Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene is responsible for the coordination and direction of all planning, facilities, budgeting, personnel, and promulgation of rules and regulations for his office. In addition, he is responsible for the coordination of activities and logistical support of the following Administrations: Medical Care Programs, Aged and Chronically Ill Services, Mental Hygiene, Mental Retardation, Drug Abuse, Juvenile Services, Preventive Medicine, Laboratories, Local Health and Professional Support Services, Comprehensive Health Planning Agency, and Environmental Health Agency. He is also responsible for the coordination and direction of the following Boards and Commissions: the State Board of Dental Examiners, the Commission on Physical Fitness, the Board of Medical Examiners, the Commission on Medical Discipline, the Commission on Kidney Disease, Health Services Cost Review Commission, Board of Sanitarian Registration, Greater Laurel Hospital Authority, the Anatomy Board of Maryland, the Maryland Board of Pharmacy, the State Board of Examiners of Nurses, the State Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers, the Board of Examiners of Optometry, the Board of Osteopathic Examiners, the Board of Podiatry Examiners, the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners, the Advisory Board on Hospital Licensing, the Advisory Council on Hospital Construction, the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, the Radiation Control Advisory Board, the Air Quality