

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS

Between 1969 and 1972, the General Assembly created twelve principal departments which combined by function the several hundred agencies, boards, and commissions which then comprised the Executive Branch of the State government. These twelve departments are those of Health and Mental Hygiene, Budget and Fiscal Planning, Natural Resources, State Planning, Human Resources (formerly Employment and Social Services), General Services, Personnel, Public Safety and Correctional Services, Licensing and Regulation, Transportation, Economic and Community Development, and Agriculture. A number of agencies were not assigned to a department but have remained independent because of their function.

The head of each Department is the Secretary who is appointed by the Governor and subject to Senate confirmation. Each Secretary serves at the Governor's pleasure and is a member of his cabinet. Each Secretary carries out the Governor's policies regarding the particular department and is responsible for the Department's operation. The Secretary is also responsible for the Department's budget, the promulgation of rules and regulations, planning activities, and the appointment of the required advisory boards. The salary of each Secretary is \$42,300 per year, except for the Secretary of Transportation who receives \$47,300.

With the approval of the Governor, each Secretary appoints a Deputy Secretary who has duties prescribed by law or delegated by the Secretary. The Deputy Secretary serves at the pleasure of the Secretary and receives a salary of \$36,200 a year, except for the Deputy Secretary of Transportation who receives \$40,400. Each Department has a Deputy Secretary, except for the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services which has two Deputy Secretaries.

A Department may also have an Assistant Secretary who is appointed by the Secretary. Each Assistant Secretary has duties as may be assigned by law. The Secretary also has such staff assistants,

professional consultants and employees as provided in the budget. These assistants and consultants serve at the pleasure of the Secretary, but other employees are under the merit system. The appointment or removal of personnel by agencies within the Department is generally subject to the approval of the Secretary, who may delegate this responsibility to agency heads.

In several of the departments, when appointments are to be made by the Secretary with the approval of the Governor, the appointee serves at the Secretary's pleasure. The Secretary may not, however, remove the appointee without the Governor's approval.

The Secretary may create advisory boards and determine their size, composition and purposes. Each Secretary has a seal for his office.

The Attorney General is the legal advisor to each Department and assigns Assistant Attorneys General to each. In the department, one Assistant Attorney General is designated as Counsel to the Department to render legal aid, advice and counsel as required by the Secretary and the Department.

Each act establishing a department listed the agencies, boards and commissions and other units contained in the new department. The act also stated that the department might be expanded to include other agencies or units as provided by law.

Chapter 415 of the Acts of 1970 permitted the executive reorganization program to be adapted to changing needs and programs by giving the Governor the authority to assign agencies which are not included in a department to one of the principal departments, either at the time the department was created or thereafter. Non-statutory commissions may be placed in the appropriate cabinet department by executive order.

Chapter 77, Acts of 1969 established the first of these cabinet-level departments by the creation of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. This department consolidated into a single organization all agencies concerned with health and the