

responsibilities under the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. Thus, by virtue of this Act the Department of Correctional Services was retitled and reestablished as the Division of Correction and continued as the same department in its capacity of exercising central administrative control over the adult correctional facilities in Maryland as provided in Art. 27, Sections 667-726, subject to the authority of the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services. The same act also abolished the Advisory Board of the Department of Correction, the Advisory Board of the Division of Parole and Probation, and the Advisory Council for Correctional Services (Code 1957, Art. 41, secs. 204D and 204E).

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 401, Acts of 1970, the Commissioner of Correction is appointed by the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services with the approval of the Governor and by and with the consent and advice of the Senate. The Commissioner is in sole and active charge of the Division of Correction and of its several institutions and agencies, subject only to his responsibility to the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services and to the Governor (Code 1957, Art. 27, secs. 673-674).

The staff of the Division of Correction plans, establishes, and directs programs of administration for the various correctional facilities. The institutions carry on a program of classification, education, vocational training, employment, and the other segments of rehabilitative treatment.

Chapter 695, Acts of 1967, provided that all criminals sentenced after June 1, 1967, be committed to the Division of Correction, formerly the Department of Correctional Services, and authorized the Department to establish receiving and classification centers for prisoners. On June 1, 1967, the Department established a Reception Center at the Maryland Penitentiary for male inmates and a Reception Center at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women—Jessup, for female inmates. After diagnostic evaluation and classification, the inmate is then assigned to one of the institutions of the Division (Code 1957, Art. 27, secs. 689 (g), 690, 691-700 (a), 701-702).

By Chapter 285, Acts of 1963, the Work Release Law was established (Code 1957, Art. 27, sec. 700A). The Work Release Program allows prisoners sentenced to an institution under the jurisdiction of the Division of Correction 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 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. Provision is also made for granting weekend leaves under certain conditions by Chapter 448 and Chapter 449, Acts of 1969 (Code 1957, Art. 27, secs. 700A and 700C).

The institutions and pre-release units 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 pre-release facilities in preparation for obtaining high school equivalency certificates, and programs of vocational and on-the-job training.

With the amendment set forth in Chapter 539, Acts of 1976, an educational coordinating council for correctional institutions under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services was created. The Commissioner of Correction is a member of this council. The council, for administrative and budgetary purposes, is within the State Department of Education. The council is responsible for developing and recommending the educational programs to be conducted in each correctional institution, taking into account the special needs and circumstances of the inmates in the institution. The law provided that from and after July 1, 1978, funds for the operation of the educational programs in correctional institutions shall be provided in the State budget for the State Department of Education. The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and other State departments may contribute to these programs as provided in the State budget. The Director of Educational Programs is appointed by the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Education Article, secs. 22-101, 102).