

The staff of the Division of Correction plans, establishes, and directs programs of administration for State correctional facilities. The institutions carry on programs of classification, education, vocational training, employment, substance abuse counseling, psychological/psychiatric intervention, security, and all necessary support services for residential housing.

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. These programs also provide necessary goods and services to the public agencies eligible to purchase them. Several institutions operate laundries which serve both the institutions and other State facilities.

By Chapter 285, Acts of 1963, the Work Release Program was established. Prisoners sentenced to an institution under the jurisdiction of the Division of Correction may leave actual confinement during necessary and reasonable hours to work at gainful employment in the community. They 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. Under certain conditions, the Commissioner of Correction may authorize special leave for prisoners to seek employment or participate in special community rehabilitation programs. Weekend leaves also may be granted under certain conditions (Code 1957, Art. 27, secs. 700A, 700C).

The institutions provide educational activities including academic instruction on both elementary and secondary school levels, varied opportunities for advanced and specialized study, and vocational and on-the-job training programs. Pre-release facilities offer instruction that prepares inmates to obtain high school equivalency certificates.

Chapter 535, Acts of 1980, provided that a county or counties deciding to build or maintain a regional detention center may apply to the Commissioner of Correction for financial aid to construct or enlarge the facility. When the Commissioner approves county construction plans, the State pays part of the costs. The Commissioner, when he approves plans which require financial assistance, enters into written agreement with the county or counties involved setting forth the rights, powers, duties and responsibilities of all parties. A convicted offender may be sentenced to a regional detention center, if the sentence is for period of not more than 18 months.

Chapter 464, Acts of 1972, provided for the establishment of Community Correctional Centers. Chapter 234, Acts of 1976, renamed them Community Adult Rehabilitation Centers (CARC). By this Act, the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, with the assistance and advice of the Commissioner, evaluates and determines the need for one or more community adult rehabilitation centers in each county or multi-region of the State. Effective July 1978, the community adult rehabilitation centers were placed under the Correctional Pre-Release System as pre-release units.

By Chapter 534, Acts of 1980, when the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services establishes the need for a CARC, the State pays costs associated with the start-up of the CARC. These costs are determined by agreement between the Secretary and the jurisdiction where the CARC is to be located. The Secretary, with the advice of the Commission on Correctional Standards, sets minimum standards for the Centers.

RECEPTION, DIAGNOSTIC AND CLASSIFICATION CENTER

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The Reception, Diagnostic and Classification Center for male inmates was established in 1967 (Chapter 695, Acts of 1967). Inmates at the Center are diagnostically evaluated, classified, and assigned to an institution of the Division of Correction. The Center has a rated capacity of 400 inmates (Code 1957, Art. 27, secs. 689(g)-700(a)).

MARYLAND PENITENTIARY

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The Maryland Penitentiary, authorized by Resolution No. 32, Acts of 1804, and opened in 1811, was the second institution of its type established in the United States. It is Maryland's oldest State prison. The Penitentiary is a maximum security institution for the confinement of long-term prisoners. In 1829 buildings containing workshops were constructed, thereby permitting the establishment of industrial activities. In 1845 an educational program was introduced, with the prison's chaplains teaching the inmates. Over the years a great deal of construction and demolition has