

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Bishop L. Robinson, *Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services*

Vacancy, *Deputy Secretary*

John J. O'Neill, *Assistant Secretary*

Emory A. Plitt, *Principal Counsel*

6776 Reisterstown Rd., Suite 310
Baltimore 21215-2341

Telephone: 764-4000
TTY for Deaf: 486-0677

The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services was created in 1970 (Chapter 401, Acts of 1970), but its origins date to the early nineteenth century, when the Maryland Penitentiary opened in 1811 (Resolution no. 32, Acts of 1804). The Maryland House of Correction was authorized in 1874 and opened in 1879 (Chapter 233, Acts of 1874). The Maryland State Police were not organized until 1935 (Chapter 303, Acts of 1935); however, the origin of this agency dates to 1914. In that year, the General Assembly authorized the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to employ Motorcycle Deputies to patrol the highways. The Maryland Civil Defense Agency, although not established until 1949, was predated by the Maryland Council of Defense, 1917-1920, 1941-1945 (Chapter 24, Acts of Special Session 1917; Chapter 567, Acts of 1941; Chapter 602, Acts of 1943; Chapter 563, Acts of 1949).

The Department includes the following agencies: State Emergency Management and Civil Defense Agency; Emergency Management Advisory Council; Emergency Number Systems Board; Criminal Injuries Compensation Board; Explosives Advisory Council; State Fire Prevention Commission; State Fire Marshal; Handgun Permit Review Board; Maryland State Police; State Clearinghouse for Missing Children; Police Training Commission; Division of Correction; State Use Industries Advisory Committee; Advisory Board for Correction, Parole and Probation; Commission on Correctional Standards; Correctional Training Commission; Inmate Grievance Commission; Division of Parole and Probation; Maryland Parole Commission; Patuxent Institution; Board of Patuxent Institution; and Sundry Claims Board.

The Department administers the Data Center for public safety, law enforcement, and correctional agencies within the State. The Data Center provides data processing services to the State Police, Division of Correction, Division of Parole and Probation, Patuxent Institution, State Fire Marshal, and a number of federal and local criminal justice agencies. It provides computer terminal and computer-to-computer data transmission between these agencies and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, State Motor Vehicle Administration, and the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System.

STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CIVIL DEFENSE AGENCY

Edward Murray, *Director*

State Emergency Operating Center
Reisterstown Road and Sudbrook Lane
Pikesville 21208 Telephone: 486-4422

The State Emergency Management and Civil Defense Agency's principal mission derives from the Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950 (Public

Law 920, 81st Congress) as amended. The act outlines the intent of Congress to provide a civil defense system to protect life and property from attack and provide relief and assistance to people struck by disasters other than those caused by enemy attack.

Known as the Maryland Civil Defense Agency from 1950 to 1970, the Agency, in its earliest years, was primarily concerned with statewide nuclear attack preparedness and related missions (Chapter 563, Acts of 1949).