

The institutions and pre-release units have 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.

The Work Release Program was established in 1963 (Chapter 285, Acts of 1963). 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. In 1968, this privilege was extended to include attendance at school as part of a Work Release Program (Chapter 551, Acts of 1968). 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.

Community Correctional Centers were established in 1972 (Chapter 464, Acts of 1972). 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-county region of the State. In July 1978, the community adult rehabilitation centers were placed under the Correctional Pre-Release System as pre-release units.

When the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services establishes the need for a Community Adult Rehabilitation Center, the State pays costs associated with starting the Center (Chapter 534, Acts of 1980). These costs are determined by agreement between the Secretary and the jurisdiction where the Center 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 is a maximum security institution for the confinement of long-term prisoners. Authorized by Resolution no. 32, Acts of 1804, and opened in 1811, the Penitentiary was the second institution of its kind established in the United States. It is Maryland's oldest State prison. 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 taken place. The most recent additions were made in 1956 when the old administration building and one of the original cell houses were razed to provide a site for a sixty-bed general