

from fire and explosion. It also serves as a board of appeals for matters connected with the enforcement of the Fire Code and interpretation of conflicts with local codes.

The Commission has nine members appointed for five-year terms by the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services with the approval of the Governor. Membership must be geographically representative of the State (Code 1957, Art. 38A).

## DIVISION OF CORRECTION

Fred E. Jordan, Jr., *Commissioner*  
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The functions of the Division of Correction originated in the nineteenth century when the Maryland Penitentiary and the Maryland House of Correction were erected.

Prior to 1916, the two prisons were autonomous. Each operated under the jurisdiction of either a Board of Directors or a Board of Managers appointed by the Governor. In 1916, these institutions were placed under the administration of the State Board of Prison Control (Chapter 556, Acts of 1916). The Board of Welfare superseded the Board of Prison Control in 1922 to administer the prisons (Chapter 29, Acts of 1922). In 1939, the Department of Correction and the Board of Correction replaced the Board of Welfare (Chapter 69, Acts of 1939).

The Superintendent of Prisons became administrator of the Department of Correction in 1953 (Chapter 758, Acts of 1953). The Board of Correction established departmental policies and appointed executive personnel for institutions under the jurisdiction of the Department on recommendations made by the Superintendent of Prisons (Code 1957, Art. 27, secs. 667, 669-671, 675, 677). In 1962, the Advisory Board of Corrections replaced the Board of Correction and the Superintendent of Prisons was succeeded by the Commissioner of Correction (Chapter 123, Acts of 1962). The Department of Correction was renamed the Department of Correctional Services in 1968 (Chapter 137, Acts of 1968).

All State correctional responsibilities were assigned to the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services in 1970 (Chapter 401, Acts of 1970). At that time, the Department of Correctional Services was reorganized as the Division of Correction and continued to administer adult correctional facilities subject to the authority of the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services. In 1970, a single advisory board for correc-

tions, parole, and probation replaced 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.

The Division of Correction plans, establishes, and directs the administration of State correctional facilities. Under the Division's jurisdiction, correctional institutions conduct programs of classification, education, vocational training, employment, substance abuse counseling, psychological/psychiatric intervention, security, and support services to secure residential housing.

Correctional institutions and pre-release units offer employment programs that permit inmates to develop or relearn occupational skills. The inmates are assigned to a variety of maintenance tasks, as well as to the diversified State Use Industries Program. These programs also provide necessary goods and services to certain public agencies. For example, several institutions operate their own laundries which also serve other State facilities.

The Work Release Program was established in 1963 (Chapter 285, Acts of 1963). Under this program, certain prisoners 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 for attending school (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).

Correctional institutions provide education, including academic instruction at both elementary and secondary school levels, advanced and specialized study, and vocational and on-the-job training. Pre-release units offer instruction that prepares inmates to obtain high school equivalency certificates.

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 (Chapter 535, Acts of 1980). When the Commissioner approves county construction plans, the State pays part of the costs. The Commissioner, upon approving 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 not more than 18 months.

Community Correctional Centers were introduced in 1972 (Chapter 464, Acts of 1972). Chapter 234, Acts of 1976, renamed them Community