

The Police Training Commission was created in 1966 to improve law enforcement by raising standards of training and education for police (Chapter 286, Acts of 1966). Subject to the authority of the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, the Commission prescribes standards for and certifies schools that offer police and security training. It may revoke a school's certification for cause. The Commission sets minimum qualifications for instructors and certifies qualified instructors for approved training schools. It verifies which officers have satisfactorily completed training programs and issues diplomas. The Commission also operates approved police training schools (Code 1957, Art. 41, sec. 4-201).

The Commission certifies persons as police officers who have met all standards of the Commission. Under certain conditions, it also can suspend or revoke certification. Persons not satisfactorily trained in the twelve-month probationary period may not be employed as police officers. Nor may a police officer serve after certification has been revoked, suspended, or allowed to lapse.

The Commission studies entrance-level and in-service training methods and procedures, and consults and cooperates with recognized federal, State or municipal law enforcement agencies, educational institutions, and other State departments and agencies concerned with police training. The administrative staff of the Commission also works with the Correctional Training Commission.

The Police Training Commission consists of fourteen members. Eleven serve ex officio and may be represented by alternates. The Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, with the approval of the Governor and Senate advice and consent, appoints the remaining three members for three-year terms. Each appointed member must be a police official from a different geographical area of the State. With the approval of the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, the Commission appoints the Executive Director (Code 1957, Art. 41, sec. 4-201).

#### CORRECTIONAL TRAINING COMMISSION

*Chairperson:* David N. Bezanson, Deputy Secretary of Public Safety & Correctional Services  
(410) 442-2700

In 1971, the Correctional Training Commission was established to improve the administration of the correctional system by raising standards of training and education for those in the field of corrections, parole, and probation (Chapter 213, Acts of 1971). Subject to the authority of the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, the Commission prescribes standards for and certifies all schools that offer training courses. It may revoke a school's certification for cause.

The Commission outlines minimum qualifications for instructors and certifies qualified instructors for

approved training schools. Correctional officers who have satisfactorily completed training programs are certified by the Commission which also operates approved correctional training schools.

The Commission examines correctional training methods and procedures for all correctional schools and consults and cooperates with recognized federal, State or municipal correctional agencies, educational institutions, and other departments and agencies of the State concerned with correctional training.

The Commission has twelve members. Nine serve ex officio and may be represented by alternates. With the approval of the Governor and Senate advice and consent, the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services appoints three members who are correctional, parole or probation officers from different geographical regions for three-year terms. The Commission appoints the Executive Director with the approval of the Secretary (Code 1957, Art. 41, sec. 4-301).

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#### STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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Rocco J. Gabriele, *State Fire Marshal*

106 Old Court Road, Suite 300  
Pikesville, MD 21208 (410) 764-4324

Duties of the first State Fire Marshal, whose office was created in 1894, were assumed ex officio by the Insurance Commissioner in 1916 (Chapter 248, Acts of 1894; Chapter 521, Acts of 1916). The Office of State Fire Marshal took on these responsibilities in 1964 (Chapter 46, Acts of 1964). The State Fire Marshal and the State Fire Prevention Commission became part of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services in 1970.

Appointed by the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, the State Fire Marshal enforces all Maryland laws dealing with fire prevention, electrical safety, and the storage, sale, and use of explosives and combustibles. The State Fire Marshal also enforces all State laws on installation and maintenance of fire detection and control equipment, fire exits in public buildings, and suppression of arson (Code 1957, Art. 38A).

#### STATE FIRE PREVENTION COMMISSION

Smith N. Stathem, *Chairperson*, 1996

M. Elizabeth Weiderhold, *Secretary*  
(410) 836-4843

The State Fire Prevention Commission was established in 1964 (Chapter 46, Acts of 1964). The Commission promulgates regulations for the safeguarding of life and property 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.