

In 1909, the Board of Police Commissioners of Baltimore City urged the creation of a State detective force, as the Governor, Fire Marshal and State's Attorneys in the counties frequently requested the assistance of Baltimore City's expert investigators. The first tentative step towards a statewide police force, however, was taken in 1914 as a corps of motorcycle officers under the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles began to enforce motor vehicle laws throughout Maryland (Chapter 564, Acts of 1914).

The need for statewide enforcement of criminal law became more critical after World War I when a crime wave struck Maryland. The Governor, Police Commissioner of Baltimore City, and the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles came up with a plan for a State Police Force under the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. Former servicemen were recruited and the first training camp was conducted early in 1921. By 1922, the force of motorcycle deputies had statewide jurisdiction over criminal cases through deputization by the county sheriffs. The force was supported by a plainclothes investigative department and was known as the State Police Force.

In 1935, the State Police Act established the Maryland State Police as a separate department of State government (Chapter 303, Acts of 1935). The new agency was funded out of revenues from the Department of Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. It was granted statewide police powers, including enforcement of fish, oyster, game and other conservation laws, and was required to maintain a training school.

Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. In 1970, as part of the effort to streamline State government, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services was created, absorbing the previously autonomous entities of the Division of Correction, Division of Parole and Probation, Maryland State Police, State Civil Defense and Emergency Planning Agency, State Fire Prevention Commission and the State Fire Marshal, Maryland Traffic Safety Commission, and Patuxent Institution, as well as certain advisory boards. The State Civil Defense and Emergency Planning Agency was renamed several times and then transferred to the Military Department in 1989 as the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (Chapter 674, Acts of 1989).

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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

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Appointed by the Governor with Senate advice and consent, the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services directs and coordinates State law enforcement and correctional programs. The Secretary also serves on the Governor's Executive Council; the Governor's Advisory Board for Justice Assistance; the State Board of Victim Services; the State Advisory Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse; the Governor's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission; and the Interdepartmental Advisory Committee for Minority Affairs; the Pricing Committee for Blind Industries and Services of Maryland; and the Pricing and Selection Committee for Rehabilitation and Employment Programs.

Reporting directly to the Secretary are the Maryland State Police, the State Fire Marshal, the Division of Pretrial Detention and Services, the Division of Correction, Patuxent Institution, and the Division of Parole and Probation. The office of the Secretary also oversees the Explosives Advisory Council, the Handgun Roster Board, and the Correctional Options Advisory Board. The Secretary is assisted by a deputy secretary and two assistant secretaries.

EXPLOSIVES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Stoyan L. Russell, *Chairperson*, 1998
(410) 764-4000

Formed in 1984, the Explosives Advisory Council recommends to the Department rules and regulations for the storage, use, manufacture, and transport of explosive material (Chapter 694, Acts of 1984). The Council reviews proposed rules, regulations, and laws that affect the manufacture, use, or distribution of explosives. On a continual basis, it monitors new developments in the explosives industry, including safety precautions, techniques for blasting, and federal regulations.

The Council may have no more than nineteen members. They are appointed to five-year terms by the Governor (Code 1957, Art. 41, sec. 4-106).

HANDGUN ROSTER BOARD

Chairperson: Col. Larry W. Tolliver,
Superintendent, Maryland State Police
(410) 653-4219

The Handgun Roster Board was established in 1988 (Chapter 533, Acts of 1988). The Board compiles, maintains, and publishes the Handgun Roster, which lists those handguns manufactured after January 1, 1985, that may be manufactured for distribution or sales, sold, or offered for sale in Maryland. It is illegal in Maryland to sell or offer for sale a handgun manufactured after January 1, 1985, that is not on the Handgun Roster. Semiannually, the Handgun Roster is published in the *Maryland Register*.