

Chapter 97, Acts of 1970, combined the State agencies responsible for the construction, maintenance, and preservation of State-owned property, the purchasing bureau, and service functions of all State agencies into the Department of General Services.

Chapter 96, Acts of 1970, established the Department of Employment and Social Services, which has the general responsibility for the administration of State programs concerned with social services, manpower development, income maintenance, and the problems of children, the aged, and special groups such as injured workers. The name of this Department was changed to the Department of Human Resources by Chapter 352, Acts of 1975.

The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services carries out the laws and policies in public safety, law enforcement, crime prevention, criminal correction, treatment of defective delinquents, and parole and probation. This department was created by Chapter 401, Acts of 1970.

The Department of Licensing and Regulation, created by Chapter 402, Acts of 1970, controls over thirty State agencies and boards responsible for the licensing and regulation of businesses, professions, and trades.

The Department of Economic and Community Development, created by Chapter 527, Acts of 1970, includes agencies responsible for the promotion of the economic and cultural welfare of the community and its citizens and programs concerning local community development.

By Chapter 526, Acts of 1970, all agencies concerned with the transportation of people and goods were concentrated into a Department of Transportation.

The last department, Agriculture, brought together into a single cabinet department a dozen agencies concerned with the farmer, farm products, the land, and the promotion of agriculture. The Department was created by Chapter 342, Acts of 1972.

Some departments have Boards of Review, which were created to hear appeals in a limited number of cases from decisions and actions of constituent agencies. Each Board may make recommendations to the Secretary regarding the operation and administration of the department. These Boards of Review, which exist only for the Departments of Health and Mental Hygiene, Natural Resources, Transportation, and Agriculture, consist of seven members appointed by the Governor with Senate confirmation for three-year terms. Four members represent the general public, while three must be members knowledgeable in fields under the department's jurisdiction. The Governor designates the chairperson from one of the public members.

Even though a number of agencies were often absorbed into a particular department, the Governor still must appoint the members of many boards. In some cases, however, these appointments are made with the Secretary's approval and where the Secretary makes the board appointments, the Governor must approve them.