

State Senate Confirms Robinson As Secretary of Juvenile Justice

By The Associated Press

The Maryland Senate unanimously confirmed Bishop Robinson yesterday as the head of the state's troubled Department of Juvenile Justice.

Robinson has run the agency on an interim basis since December following a series of reports that guards at state-run juvenile boot camps brutalized teen-age inmates.

"Bishop Robinson has done an extraordinary job over the last few months," Gov. Parris Glendening said. "He has moved aggressively and effectively to put needed reforms in place."

Maryland State Police Maj. Steve Moyer, who has been serving as the department's acting deputy secretary, will remain in his role, Glendening said.

Phyllis Hildreth, chief counsel for the

Public Defender's office, will fill a new position as deputy secretary in charge of the juvenile justice department's core support functions, the governor said.

Glendening cleaned house at the agency's helm in the wake of the boot camp scandal, demanding the resignation of former Secretary Gilberto de Jesus along with three of his subordinates.

Robinson, 73, is a former secretary of public safety who resigned from his state job to take a job in private industry. He came out of the private sector to head a task force appointed by the governor that looked into problems in the boot camps and the department.

After Glendening named him acting director, he promised major changes within the system, including the demolition of the

overcrowded Cheltenham Youth Facility in Prince George's County.

"I suppose it's a measure of the man that after being out and smelling the roses for six months, he missed the action," Glendening said.

Robinson has designed a new structure for the department, including a newly created Office of Professional Responsibility and Accountability that is intended to ensure accountability at every level of the organization.