

ment Insurance Work Test, and Migrant and Seasonal Farm Workers.

Functions of the Office date to 1902, when the Chief of the Bureau of Industrial Statistics was instructed to organize and operate a free State employment agency (Chapter 365, Acts of 1902). Chapter 406, Acts of 1916 transferred that function to the State Board of Labor and Statistics with the additional duty of investigating causes of unemployment and possible solutions. Since 1936, the State's employment service function has been conjoined with administration of the unemployment insurance law.

#### *JOB SERVICE EMPLOYER COMMITTEES*

##### **STATEWIDE STEERING COMMITTEE**

Jack M. Hix, *Chairperson*  
Darlene T. Carver, *Vice-Chairperson*

Richard Aarons; Timothy W. Bieber; Amy Carrick; Bert Cooperstein; Jeanne U. Ewell; Judith E. Ferro; Carren Fink; Alfred M. Francis, Jr.; Clay K. French; Julius Gaal; Lois Howard; Robert Kiley; Lillian Lee; James Marshall; P. Howard Marshall; Andrew Mroz; William H. Muth; Christopher R. Norris; Bili S. O'Meara; Jean Paterson; Cindy Romero; Alan Sexton; Patricia Vogt; James Ward; George Weeks; Norman Yoder; Jean Zyna.

333-5353

Job Service Employer Committees were formed in the early 1970s. They include a statewide steering committee and 20 local committees that audit and advise local Job Service offices.

#### **OFFICE OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**

Thomas Wendel, *Executive Director*

1100 N. Eutaw St.  
Baltimore, MD 21201

333-5306

In December 1936, the General Assembly was called into special session to pass Maryland's Unemployment Compensation Law. The Office of Unemployment Insurance originated as the Unemployment Compensation Board created by that special session. The Board was superseded by the Department of Employment Security in 1937 (Chapter 314, Acts of 1937). The Department's Unemployment Insurance Division administered the unemployment insurance law until 1970. In that year, the Department was reorganized as the Department of Employment and Social Services (Chapter 96, Acts of 1970). The new Department's Employment Security Administration carried on administrative duties and in 1975 was renamed the Unemployment Insurance Division of the Department of Human Resources (Chapter 382, Acts of 1975). In 1983, the Division was transferred to the Department of Employment and Training and

renamed the Unemployment Insurance Administration. It became part of the Department of Economic and Employment Development in 1987 (Chapter 311, Acts of 1987).

Pursuant to the Maryland Unemployment Insurance Law, the Office of Unemployment Insurance supervises the Unemployment Insurance Program carried out by local offices (Code 1957, Art. 95A). The Office collects contributions from employers covered by the Law, collects quarterly wage information on covered employees, determines weekly benefits and eligibility in accordance with this wage information, and issues benefit checks to eligible claimants. It reviews benefit payments to determine if any were improperly made, recovers improper payments, and pays benefits to individuals who formerly worked in Maryland but now reside in other states. As provided by reciprocal interstate agreement, the Office also collects Maryland residents' claims against employers in other states.

Using an experience rating system, the Unemployment Insurance Law allows a reduced contribution rate for employers who maintain steady employment. All funds collected under the Law are deposited with the U.S. Treasury for the credit of the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund of Maryland and may be used only to pay benefits.

#### *BENEFITS & SPECIAL PROGRAMS SECTION*

Harry Hammann, *Director*

333-5306

The Benefits and Special Programs Section determines claimants' eligibility for unemployment insurance benefits. The Section administers the taking and processing of claims, adjudication of ineligible claims, and fraud detection and prosecution. The Section also oversees interstate combined wage and federal unemployment benefit programs.

#### *CONTRIBUTIONS (TAX) SECTION*

Dennis Morton, *Director*

333-5317

The Contributions Section establishes employer tax accounts and assigns rates, charges benefits, and collects taxes on each account. The Section also collects all delinquent accounts and maintains the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.

#### *LOWER APPEALS SECTION*

Allan H. Berman, *Director*

William Merriman, *Chief Hearing Examiner*

333-5040

The Lower Appeals Section determines claimants' eligibility for unemployment insurance benefits. Following administrative review, the Section hears cases that have been appealed by claimants and employers.