Labor and Industrial Relations

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

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The Department of Labor and Industry, established by Chapter 211, Acts of 1884, as the Bureau of Statistics and Information, is one of the oldest governmental agencies in this field in the United States, antedating the U. S. Department of Labor by one year. After 1892, the Department was known as the Industrial Bureau. A reorganization in 1916 renamed it the State Board of Labor and Statistics, and concentrated in it powers to enforce all the factory acts. The General Assembly made further changes by Chapter 747, Acts of 1939, and created the present Department by Chapter 938, Acts of 1945.

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Primarily a law enforcement agency, the Department is under the direction of a Commissioner appointed by the Governor for a four-year term. The Department enforces all laws and regulations affecting workers and employers and promotes harmony between industry and labor through mediation and arbitration of labor disputes and the holding of consent elections (Code 1957, 1960 Supp., Art. 27, secs. 324-333; Art. 38, sec. 3; Art. 56, secs. 161-170; Art. 77, secs. 231-233; Art. 89, secs. 1-13, 25-48; Art. 100, secs. 1-55; Art. 101, sec. 47).

Division of Industrial Services

This Division is composed of those sections of the Department which have direct contact with the general public in the enforcement of laws and the issuance of licenses and certificates other than those of the Boiler Inspection Division. The separate sections included are: Inspection, Children's Certification, Street Trades and Fee Charging Employment Agencies. The Inspection Section is responsible for the inspection of all places of business in Maryland to insure compliance with the following laws: Occupational Safety, Child Labor, Hours of Labor for Females, Work—Hours of in Factories, Factory Inspection and Industrial Registration. This section is also responsible for the licensing of Homeworkers and Workshops. The Children's Certification Section is responsible for the issuance of employment certificates to minors 14 to 17 years of age, inclusive, in accordance with the Child Labor Law. Age statements, apprenticeship agreements, coordination certificates and special certificates are also issued in addition to general and vacation employment certificates. The Street Trades Section is responsible for the licensing and regulation of street traders and newsboys as defined in the Child Labor Law.

Division of Industrial Safety

This Division is responsible for the constant and continuous study and analysis of and investigation into the causes of industrial accidents and the formulation of programs and planning to reduce such accidents.