
ORIGIN & FUNCTIONS

The Department of Licensing and Regulation supervises many of the State's licensing and regulatory boards. Created in 1970, the Department consolidated over thirty State agencies and boards responsible for licensing and regulating businesses, professions, and trades. The oldest of these date to the nineteenth century: the Insurance Department (1872); the Bureau of Statistics and Information (1884); and the State Board of Examining Engineers (1892). More boards were established in the twentieth century: State Board of Public Accountancy in 1900; Board of Barber Examiners in 1904; State Board of Commissioners of Practical Plumbing and Board of Examining Moving Picture Machine Operators in 1910; Maryland State Board of Censors in 1916; State Athletic Commission and Maryland Racing Commission in 1920; Board of Examiners and Registration of Architects and Board of Hairdressers and Beauty Culturists in 1935; State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Real Estate Commission of Maryland in 1939; Maryland Home Improvement Commission in 1962; Board of Examiners for Hearing Aid Dealers in 1969; Maryland Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects in 1971; State Board of Registration for Foresters in 1972; State Board of Registration for Professional Land Surveyors in 1977; State Commission of Real Estate Appraisers in 1990; and State Board of Certified Interior Designers in 1991.

The first effort to bring together licensing and regulatory boards came in 1951, when the Central License Office was authorized to house five boards (Chapter 280, Acts of 1951). The Office provided office space and clerical services to the Board of Barber Examiners, the Board of Examining Engineers, the Board of Examiners of Motion Picture Machine Operators, the Board of Electrical Examiners and Supervisors, and the State Board of Commissioners of Practical Plumbing. In 1970, the Office was abolished when the Department of Licensing and Regulation was created (Chapter 402, Acts of 1970).

The Department is organized into five Divisions: Insurance, Financial Regulation, Labor and Industry, Occupational and Professional Licensing, and Racing. The Insurance Division supervises all aspects of insurance services used by Maryland residents. The Division of Financial Regulation controls the operation of banks, State-chartered savings and loan associations, credit unions, consumer loan companies, sales finance companies, mortgage companies, and collection agencies. The Division also insures certain savings and loan associations.

Protection for workers is provided by the Division of Labor and Industry, which sets safety standards and promotes harmony between employers and employees. The Division also protects the public by inspecting railroads, boilers, elevators, and amusement rides. Standards of performance for several vocations are enforced by the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing. The Division supervises a variety of specialized occupations, including accountants, architects, engineers, cosmetologists, barbers, home improvement contractors, and real estate brokers. The Division regulates the sports of boxing and wrestling as well. The Maryland Racing Commission, through the Division of Racing, regulates thoroughbred and harness horse racing.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Secretary of Licensing and Regulation heads the Department. The Secretary is appointed by the Governor with Senate advice and consent.

The Office of the Secretary assists the operation of the five Divisions through complaint adjudication, fiscal accountability, personnel management, data processing, management analysis, printing, and legal assistance (Code 1957, Art. 41, secs. 8-101 through 8-301).

DEPUTY SECRETARY

Joseph E. Owens, *Deputy Secretary*
333-6200

Reporting directly to the Deputy Secretary are the two Assistant Secretaries who oversee the work of the Department's Divisions.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Charles Kelly, *Assistant Secretary*
333-6200

The Assistant Secretary oversees the Insurance Division and the Division of Financial Regulation as well as Management Information Systems, Planning and Management Analysis, and Budget/Procurements and Accounting/Disbursements.

INSURANCE DIVISION

John A. Donaho, *State Insurance Commissioner*
A. Samuel Penn, *Deputy State Insurance Commissioner*

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