

DEPARTMENT OF  
**LICENSING AND  
REGULATORY  
AFFAIRS**



**STEVE HILFINGER, DIRECTOR**

611 W. Ottawa, 4th Floor  
P.O. Box 30004, Lansing, MI 48909  
[www.michigan.gov/lara](http://www.michigan.gov/lara)

The **Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA)** is reinventing Michigan's licensing and regulatory environment, making it more conducive to business formation and job growth.

LARA has 4 primary focuses: (1) The Office of Regulatory Reinvention (ORR); (2) Licensing and Regulatory; (3) The Michigan Administrative Hearing System; and (4) Employment Security and Workplace Safety.

LARA oversees the licensing and regulation of more than 1.2 million Michigan individuals and entities in 90 professions on an annual basis. It supports the health, safety, and economic well-being of the public through services to, and regulation of, the activities of organizations and individuals.

This department is customer driven and business minded. This new emphasis on streamlined government will contribute significantly to the overall goal of long-term economic success for Michigan.

**Audit and Financial Compliance, Office of**

The office provides oversight of LARA's audit and internal control compliance and fiscal monitoring.

**Commercial Services, Bureau of (BCS)**

BCS licenses and regulates more than 309,000 licensees for 30 different commercial occupations; maintains public records of 1,250,000 business entities; and conducts investigations to ensure consumer protection.

**Communications, Office of**

The Office of Communications responds to inquiries from the news media and the public and issues news releases about LARA programs. It provides publications and forms design services, enhanced audio-visual support, and video production.

**Construction Codes, Bureau of (BCC)**

BCC is responsible for building, boiler, electrical, elevator, mechanical, land survey and remonumentation, manufactured housing, plan review, and plumbing regulation.

**Employment Relations, Bureau of (BER)**

BER resolves employer/union conflicts by mediating disputes, conducting elections, appointing neutrals to resolve impasses; enforcing statutes, education, and training.

**Finance and Administrative Services, Office of**

The Office of Finance and Administrative Services provides the full range of financial and day-to-day support activities for all LARA employees: budget development and monitoring; accounting services including federal reporting; procurement services; and office services.

**Financial and Insurance Regulation, Office of (OFIR)**

OFIR regulates Blue Cross Blue Shield, HMOs, banks, mortgage companies, insurance companies, credit unions, consumer finance lenders, investment advisers, insurance, and securities agents.

**Fire Services, Bureau of (BFS)**

BFS serves training needs of Michigan firefighters and reviews plans and inspects state-regulated facilities for fire and life safety.

**Health Professions, Bureau of (BHP)**

BHP regulates health professionals in Michigan who are licensed or registered.

**Health Systems, Bureau of (BHS)**

BHS deals primarily with licensing of health care facilities and related issues in Michigan.

**Human Resources, Office of**

The office provides a full range of human resources services for all LARA employees.

**METRO Authority**

This agency assesses and collects fees from telecommunication providers to distribute to municipalities.

**Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS)**

MAHS represents the consolidation of administrative law services within LARA.

**Michigan Commission for the Blind (MCB)**

MCB helps more than 4,500 blind and visually impaired individuals annually to achieve employment and independence, and helps employers to find and retain qualified workers. MCB serves people of all ages.

**Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC)**

The MLCC provides comprehensive screening process services when issuing liquor licenses. Liquor sales revenues go into the state's general fund and provide grants to cities for fire protection, substance abuse programs, convention facilities, school aid, and local governments.

**Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA)**

MIOSHA protects Michigan workers by promoting workplace safety and health through outreach training services, fair enforcement, and cooperative agreements.

**Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC)**

The MPSC regulates utilities, energy, natural gas, telecommunications and transportation services; administers energy grants; and provides consumer information.

**Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS)**

MRS assists individuals with disabilities to achieve employment and independence; operates the Michigan Career and Technical Institute (MCTI), a vocational training school; and disability management services to businesses.

**Michigan Tax Tribunal**

This is a tax court with original and exclusive jurisdiction over property tax issues.

**Policy and Legislative Affairs, Office of**

This office maintains contact with lawmakers to advocate for changes in laws that affect LARA programs.

**Regulatory Reinvention, Office of**

The Office of Regulatory Reinvention works with the various departments of state government to amend duplicative, obsolete, unnecessary, or unduly restrictive rules.

**Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA)**

UIA provides temporary income to jobless workers while they are seeking employment.

**Wage and Hour Division**

The Wage and Hour Division administers and enforces the laws that protect the wages and fringe benefits of Michigan's workers and provides for the safe and legal employment of minors.

**Workers' Compensation Agency**

This agency administers and enforces the Workers' Disability Compensation Act, which provides wage replacement and medical and vocational rehabilitation benefits to people with work-related injuries and disabilities.

