



Licensing and Regulatory Affairs

General Overview

The Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) was created by Executive Order (E.O.) 2011-4 and primarily consists of programs from the former Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth (DELEG). During the transition from DELEG to LARA, a number of programs, primarily those related to job training and workforce development, were transferred out of the department. LARA's mission primarily focuses on licensing and regulation, as its name suggests.

Major Divisions and Programs

Public Service Commission (PSC). The PSC is a three-member, Governor-appointed Commission which regulates all public utilities and motor carriers in the State except those restricted by law. Regulation of this industry includes the responsibility to set rates, fares, fees, charges, and services. Public utilities include electric light and power companies, local telephone service, and oil and gas pipeline companies.

Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC). The MLCC consists of five members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate for staggered four-year terms. Michigan is a "control" state which means that the Commission is responsible for controlling alcoholic beverage traffic including the manufacture, importation, possession, transportation, and sale of alcohol within the State. Primary funding for this unit comes from the Liquor Purchase Revolving Fund which receives revenue from the collection of specific and excise taxes on beer wine, distilled, and mixed spirits and a 65.0% markup on distilled spirits. The balance of this Fund then is deposited into the General Fund at year end, and contributes over \$170.0 million to the General Fund annually.

Cannabis Regulatory Agency. Formerly known as the Bureau of Medical Marihuana Regulation and the Marijuana Regulatory Agency, this unit of LARA consists of the Michigan Medical Marihuana Program and the Medical Marihuana Facility Licensing Division. As of December 2018, it is also responsible for the implementation of the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marihuana Act. The Bureau oversees the regulation of both medical and recreational marihuana use and provision.

Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC). The MIDC is a 15-member commission responsible for developing and overseeing the implementation and enforcement of standards related to the provision of legal services to indigent criminal defendants within Michigan's court system. Local courts are responsible for developing plans for the implementation of the standards created by the commission. The commission approves or disapproves these plans and associated funding requests. Grants are issued to local systems by the MIDC for the implementation of these plans.

Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules (MOAHR). The Office oversees administrative rulemaking for State departments and provides administrative hearing services to all State departments and agencies. The Michigan Tax Tribunal is also part of this unit.