

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS BOARD

415 East Locust, Suite 202, Des Moines 50309; 515/281-4414

RICHARD RAMSEY, chair; term expires 1998
 DAVID D. KNOCK, Des Moines; term expires 1996
 M. SUE WARNER, Johnston; term expires 1996

The Public Employment Relations Act, enacted in 1974, has as its avowed public purpose the promotion of "harmonious and cooperative relationships between government and its employees." Specifically, the statute grants employees of the state and its political subdivisions, including cities, counties, and school districts, the right to join and participate in employee organizations, and the right to bargain collectively through such employee organizations.

The act contains detailed procedures by which employees can exercise those rights, including provisions for the determination of appropriate bargaining units, representation elections in which employees may select an employee organization to bargain on their behalf, prohibited practice provisions which proscribe certain conduct and activities, and provisions requiring the periodic reporting of finances by employee organizations.

The Public Employment Relations Board is vested with the administration of this act. As a quasi-judicial administrative agency, operating under the Iowa Administrative Procedure Act, the board conducts hearings and issues legal decisions in unit determination and representation matters, prohibited practice complaints and petitions for declaratory ruling. A staff of administrative law judges also performs, by delegation, this function. The board also administers the remaining provisions of the act. In that regard, it provides mediators, fact-finders, and arbitrators in collective bargaining impasses; it collects data and conducts studies relating to wages, hours, benefits, and other terms and conditions of public employment; and it collects registration reports and annual reports, including financial statements, from employee organizations. The Public Employment Relations Board also adjudicates discipline and grievance appeals filed by state employees and not covered by a collective bargaining agreement.

There are approximately 160,000 public employees in Iowa, employed by the state and some 1,500 political subdivisions. Nearly half of those employees have exercised rights granted by the statute, and belong to units which have selected an employee organization to represent them in collective negotiations with their employers. It is the responsibility of the Public Employment Relations Board to oversee those negotiations and assure that the rights of these employees are preserved and protected.

PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF

Paul H. Wieck II, commissioner; Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines 50319; 515/281-5261

The Iowa Department of Public Safety was created by the 48th General Assembly in 1939, through the consolidation of several departments and divisions under one executive designated as commissioner of Public Safety. The Iowa Department of Public Safety has the duty of safeguarding the lives and property of Iowans and visitors to the state through enforcement of state laws. The department is a state-wide law enforcement and public safety agency that complements and supplements local law enforcement agencies and inspection services.

The commissioner's office includes an internal affairs and staff inspections bureau, plans, training and research bureau, and the governor's traffic safety bureau. An assistant attorney general is also assigned to the department.

Today, the Iowa Department of Public Safety includes the following divisions:

Administrative Services, Division of

Carroll L. Bidler, administrator; Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines 50319; 515/281-3211

This division provides support services to the department in the general areas of accounting, budgeting, data processing, and personnel services. This division issues private investigative and security agency licenses, and the State Weapons Permit.

The division also provides data processing support to other state and local criminal justice agencies through the provisions of on-line criminal justice data bases available to all criminal justice agencies via data terminals located in major police departments and county sheriffs' offices. National criminal justice information is also provided through the National Crime Information Center and the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System.