

division, appointed by the governor.

The administrator is vested with the authority to administer emergency management affairs within the state of Iowa, man-made or natural disasters, to include preparation and execution of the emergency management program of the state, subject to the direction of the governor and the executive director of the Department of Public Defense.

The administrator is responsible for preparing a comprehensive plan and program for the emergency resource management of the state, and for coordinating the preparation of plans and programs for emergency planning for the political subdivisions and various departments of the state. Such plans are to be integrated into and coordinated with a comprehensive state emergency management program for the state of Iowa. The administrator is also responsible for making such studies and surveys of the industries, resources, and facilities in the state of Iowa as may be necessary to determine the capabilities of the state for emergency resource management and to plan for the most efficient emergency use thereof.

The administrator serves as a member of the State Emergency Response Commission, appointed by the governor, with the responsibility to implement Public Law 99-499, Title III, Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act and Chapter 30, *Code of Iowa*.

The administrator has the responsibility for the statewide administration and implementation of enhanced 9-1-1, Chapter 34A, *Code of Iowa*.

## PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS BOARD

*514 East Locust, Suite 202, Des Moines 50309  
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RICHARD P. MOORE, chair; term expires 2002; ELIZABETH L. SEISER, Des Moines; term expires 2000; M. SUE WARNER, Johnston; term expires 2000

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 prescribe 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.