

## CHAPTER 175

## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

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**175.001. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY.**

*[For text of subsds 1 to 5, see M.S.1994]*

Subd. 6. **Mission; efficiency.** It is part of the department's mission that within the department's resources the commissioner shall endeavor to:

- (1) prevent the waste or unnecessary spending of public money;
- (2) use innovative fiscal and human resource practices to manage the state's resources and operate the department as efficiently as possible;
- (3) coordinate the department's activities wherever appropriate with the activities of other governmental agencies;
- (4) use technology where appropriate to increase agency productivity, improve customer service, increase public access to information about government, and increase public participation in the business of government;
- (5) utilize constructive and cooperative labor-management practices to the extent otherwise required by chapters 43A and 179A;
- (6) include specific objectives in the performance report required under section 15.91 to increase the efficiency of agency operations, when appropriate; and
- (7) recommend to the legislature, in the performance report of the department required under section 15.91, appropriate changes in law necessary to carry out the mission of the department.

**History:** 1995 c 248 art 11 s 13

**175.16 DIVISIONS.**

Subdivision 1. **Established.** The department of labor and industry shall consist of the following divisions: division of workers' compensation, division of boiler inspection, division of occupational safety and health, division of statistics, division of steamfitting standards, division of voluntary apprenticeship, division of labor standards, and such other divisions as the commissioner of the department of labor and industry may deem necessary and establish. Each division of the department and persons in charge thereof shall be subject to the supervision of the commissioner of the department of labor and industry and, in addition to such duties as are or may be imposed on them by statute, shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to them by said commissioner. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the commissioner is the administrator and supervisor of all of the department's dispute resolution functions and personnel and may delegate authority to settlement judges and others to make determinations under sections 176.106, 176.238, and 176.239 and to approve settlement of claims under section 176.521.

Subd. 2. **Fraud investigation unit.** The department of labor and industry shall contain a fraud investigation unit for the purposes of investigating fraudulent or other illegal practices of health care providers, employers, insurers, attorneys, employees, and others related to workers' compensation and to investigate other matters under the jurisdiction of the department.

An investigator of the fraud investigation unit of the department of labor and industry has the inspection authority of the commissioner provided under section 182.659 and may apply this authority to subjects of investigations under this subdivision.

**History:** 1995 c 231 art 1 s 12; art 2 s 43

**175.171 POWERS AND DUTIES, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY.**

The department of labor and industry shall have the following powers and duties:

(1) to exercise all powers and perform all duties of the department consistent with the provisions of this chapter;

(2) to adopt reasonable and proper rules relative to the exercise of its powers and duties, and proper rules to govern its proceedings and to regulate the mode and manner of all investigations and hearings, which shall not be effective until ten days after their adoption, and a copy of these rules shall be delivered to every citizen making application therefor;

(3) to collect, collate, and publish statistical and other information relating to the work under its jurisdiction, to keep records and to make public reports in its judgment necessary; and on or before October 1 in each even-numbered year the department shall report its doings, conclusions, and recommendations to the governor, which report shall be printed and distributed by November 15 of each even-numbered year to the legislature pursuant to section 3.195, and otherwise as the department may direct;

(4) to establish and maintain branch offices as needed for the conduct of its affairs; and

(5) to provide direct computer access to and electronic data interchange of public and nonpublic workers' compensation data and other data maintained by the department and to charge a reasonable fee for the access and electronic data interchange, except that in no circumstances may a fee be charged an employee or the employee's attorney seeking access and data interchange to information about the employee's claim or circumstances. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the fee receipts for providing the computer access to and electronic data interchange of data shall be deposited in the special compensation fund. Access to and electronic data interchange of nonpublic data shall be only as authorized by the subject of the data, as authorized in chapter 13, or as otherwise authorized by law.

**History:** 1995 c 224 s 68