

STATE SURVEY AND REMONUMENTATION ACT

Act 345 of 1990

AN ACT to create a state survey and remonumentation commission and to prescribe its powers and duties; to create the state survey and remonumentation fund and to provide for its use; to coordinate and implement the monumentation and remonumentation of property controlling corners in this state; to provide for powers and duties of certain state and local officers and agencies; and to require the promulgation of rules.

History: 1990, Act 345, Eff. Jan. 1, 1991;—Am. 2014, Act 166, Imd. Eff. June 12, 2014.

Compiler's note: For transfer of powers and duties of the state survey and remonumentation commission, with the exception of powers and duties of the executive director, from the department of commerce to the director of the department of consumer and industry services, see E.R.O. No. 1996-2, compiled at MCL 445.2001 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

For transfer of the powers and duties of the executive director of the survey and remonumentation commission to the director of the department of consumer and industry services, and the abolishment of the position, see E.R.O. No. 1996-2, compiled at MCL 445.2001 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

For the transfer of all statutory authority, powers, duties, functions, records, personnel, property, unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, or other funds of the commission to the department of licensing and regulatory affairs by type III transfer and the abolishment of the commission, see E.R.O. No. 2024-2, compiled at MCL 16.735.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

54.261 Short title.

Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "state survey and remonumentation act".

History: 1990, Act 345, Eff. Jan. 1, 1991.

Compiler's note: For transfer of powers and duties of the state survey and remonumentation commission, with the exception of powers and duties of the executive director, from the department of commerce to the director of the department of consumer and industry services, see E.R.O. No. 1996-2, compiled at MCL 445.2001 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

For transfer of the powers and duties of the executive director of the survey and remonumentation commission to the director of the department of consumer and industry services, and the abolishment of the position, see E.R.O. No. 1996-2, compiled at MCL 445.2001 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

For the transfer of all statutory authority, powers, duties, functions, records, personnel, property, unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, or other funds of the commission to the department of licensing and regulatory affairs by type III transfer and the abolishment of the commission, see E.R.O. No. 2024-2, compiled at MCL 16.735.

54.262 Definitions.

Sec. 2. As used in this act:

- (a) "Commission" means the state survey and remonumentation commission created in section 3.
- (b) "County plan" means a county monumentation and remonumentation plan and perpetual monument maintenance plan established under section 8.
- (c) "County representative" means the individual obligated to perform the duties of county representative under section 9.
- (d) "Department" means the department of licensing and regulatory affairs.
- (e) "Fund" means the state survey and remonumentation fund created in section 11.
- (f) "Monumentation" means all land surveying activities performed by a surveyor to monument a protracted public land survey corner under this act and in accordance with the laws of this state.
- (g) "Original public land survey corner" means a corner established and monumented pursuant to orders and instructions issued by the United States government for the purposes of delineating United States public lands and private lands or subdividing public lands for conveyance.
- (h) "Property controlling corner" means either of the following:
 - (i) A position misidentified as and used as an original public land survey corner or as a protracted public land survey corner that serves to control property lines.
 - (ii) Any other corner approved by the department, acting in consultation with the commission.
- (i) "Protracted public land survey corner" means either of the following:
 - (i) A closing quarter section position along a township or range line or a center quarter section position that was not actually monumented on the ground in the field notes of the original United States government survey, but that serves to complete the nominal half-mile grid of government corners.
 - (ii) A monumented position that is not an original public land survey corner, lying on a section line or quarter line near a body of water, that serves to define the section line or quarter line in lieu of a submerged government position or an omitted meander position.
- (j) "Remonumentation" means all land surveying activities performed by a surveyor to perpetuate a previously monumented original public land survey corner, protracted public land survey corner, or property controlling corner as provided in this act.

(k) "Surveyor" means a professional surveyor who is licensed to practice professional surveying under article 20 of the occupational code, 1980 PA 299, MCL 339.2001 to 339.2014.

History: 1990, Act 345, Eff. Jan. 1, 1991;—Am. 1998, Act 5, Imd. Eff. Feb. 6, 1998;—Am. 2010, Act 260, Eff. Dec. 22, 2010;—Am. 2014, Act 166, Imd. Eff. June 12, 2014.

54.263 State survey and remonumentation commission; creation; membership; terms; vacancy; compensation; expenses.

Sec. 3. (1) The state survey and remonumentation commission is created in the department.

(2) The commission shall consist of 7 members. By January 1, 2015, the governor shall appoint the members, with the advice and consent of the senate, as follows:

(a) Two members shall be appointed to represent the general public.

(b) One member must be a grant administrator appointed under section 9a.

(c) The remaining 4 members must be surveyors, 1 of whom must also be serving as a county representative. The 4 members appointed under this subdivision must be residents of the following areas of this state:

(i) One must be a resident of the Upper Peninsula, 1 must be a resident of the area of the Lower Peninsula that is north of the survey township line lying between survey township 16 north and survey township 17 north, and 1 must be a resident of the area of the Lower Peninsula that is south of the survey township line lying between survey township 16 north and survey township 17 north.

(ii) One must be a member at large, and may be a resident of any area of this state.

(3) Of the 7 members first appointed to the commission after the effective date of the amendatory act that added section 9a, 1 shall be appointed for a term of 1 year, 2 for terms of 2 years each, 2 for terms of 3 years each, and 2 for terms of 4 years each. At the expiration of the term of a member, the governor shall appoint a successor, who shall hold office for a term of 4 years and until his or her successor has been appointed and qualified. If there is a vacancy in the office of a member of the commission, the governor shall appoint a successor, with the advice and consent of the senate, for the unexpired term.

(4) Members of the commission shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed from the fund for actual and necessary expenses in accordance with standards established annually by the legislature for similar boards or commissions.

History: 1990, Act 345, Eff. Jan. 1, 1991;—Am. 2014, Act 166, Imd. Eff. June 12, 2014.

Compiler's note: For the transfer of all statutory authority, powers, duties, functions, records, personnel, property, unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, or other funds of the commission to the department of licensing and regulatory affairs by type III transfer and the abolishment of the commission, see E.R.O. No. 2024-2, compiled at MCL 16.735.

54.264 Commission; chairperson; meetings.

Sec. 4. At the commission's first meeting, 1 member of the commission shall be selected by a majority of the commission members to be chairperson. The commission shall meet at least 2 times each year, at a time and place agreed upon by the commission. The chairperson may call special meetings at a time and place determined by the chairperson.

History: 1990, Act 345, Eff. Jan. 1, 1991;—Am. 2014, Act 166, Imd. Eff. June 12, 2014.

54.265 Conduct of business at public meetings; public notice; writings.

Sec. 5. (1) The business that the commission performs shall be conducted at a public meeting of the commission held in compliance with the open meetings act, Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of 1976, being sections 15.261 to 15.275 of the Michigan Compiled Laws. Public notice of the time, date, and place of the meeting shall be given in the manner required by Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of 1976.

(2) A writing prepared, owned, used, in the possession of, or retained by the commission in the performance of an official function shall be made available to the public in compliance with the freedom of information act, Act No. 442 of the Public Acts of 1976, being sections 15.231 to 15.246 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

History: 1990, Act 345, Eff. Jan. 1, 1991.

54.266 Duties of department; expediting county's plan; payment or reimbursement of costs; interaction with commission.

Sec. 6. (1) The department shall do all of the following:

(a) Coordinate the restoration, maintenance, and preservation of the land survey records and monuments of the public land survey system in this state, including, but not limited to, all pertinent field notes, plats, documents, and monuments.

(b) Establish a policy to maintain and provide safe storage of records required to be filed with the department under this act.

(c) Coordinate memoranda of understanding with other state, federal, and local agencies to promote the activities necessary, incidental, or appropriate to promote this act.

(d) Foster, encourage, and promote county plans for each county in this state and, after submission of county plans, review the plans for approval.

(e) Coordinate and administer a grant program for grants to counties to implement this act.

(f) By October 1 in each odd-numbered year, submit a report to the legislature and each county board of commissioners. The report must include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

(i) A summary of the department's activities regarding administration of this act.

(ii) An assessment of the progress of the implementation of county monumentation and remonumentation plans throughout this state.

(iii) A statement regarding the amount of money that was received and disbursed from the fund.

(iv) An assessment of how much money is necessary to carry out the county plans in this state.

(v) An assessment of whether the money received in the fund is adequate to implement this act.

(vi) Recommendations including, but not limited to, the level of funding that is necessary to implement this act.

(vii) A statement of the amount of money disbursed from the fund to each grantee, the average amount of money spent per corner by each grantee, and the percentage of work in its county plan completed by each grantee.

(2) If a county elects to expedite the county's plan as provided in section 8, the department shall enter into a contract described in section 8(4) to pay or reimburse the costs of expediting the plan. The amount expended or borrowed for expediting the county's plan shall be paid from the fund as provided in section 12(2).

(3) In performing its duties under this act, if the department is required to interact in any way with the commission and if the initial members of the commission have not been appointed and their appointment consented to by the senate under section 3 as amended by the amendatory act that added this subsection, the department may proceed with its duties under this act without the required interaction until the initial members are appointed and their appointment consented to.

History: 1990, Act 345, Eff. Jan. 1, 1991;—Am. 1998, Act 5, Imd. Eff. Feb. 6, 1998;—Am. 2014, Act 166, Imd. Eff. June 12, 2014.

54.267 Employee as surveyor.

Sec. 7. The employee in direct charge of the state survey and remonumentation section in the department that performs services for the director of the department under this act must be a surveyor.

History: 1990, Act 345, Eff. Jan. 1, 1991;—Am. 2014, Act 166, Imd. Eff. June 12, 2014.

54.268 County monumentation and remonumentation plan; perpetual monument maintenance plan; rules; submission; provisions; failure to establish and submit plan or revised plan; expediting plan; geodetic control stations.

Sec. 8. (1) Each county shall establish a county monumentation and remonumentation plan and perpetual monument maintenance plan. The department, in consultation with the commission, shall create and distribute a model county plan that may be adopted by a county with any changes appropriate for that county. By the second March 1 after the department promulgates rules under section 17(3), each county shall submit to the department for approval in consultation with the commission a county plan or, if the county has previously submitted a county plan, a revised county plan that complies with the amendments to this act enacted by the amendatory act that added section 9a and any rules promulgated after the effective date of that amendatory act and before the date that the county plan or revised county plan is to be submitted.

(2) A county plan shall provide for all of the following:

(a) A monumentation and remonumentation plan that provides for the remonumentation of all of the original public land survey corners, and any associated property controlling corners, and the monumentation or remonumentation of all of the protracted public land survey corners, and any associated property controlling corners, identified in the county plan. The monumentation or remonumentation of the county shall consist of:

(i) The filing of a land corner recordation certificate pursuant to the requirements of the corner recordation act, 1970 PA 74, MCL 54.201 to 54.210d, for each original public land survey corner and protracted public land survey corner in the county.

(ii) The inclusion in a certificate filed under subparagraph (i) of any property controlling corner associated with the original public land survey corner or protracted public land survey corner that is the subject of the certificate.

(iii) The filing of geodetic coordinates for each original public land survey corner and protracted public land survey corner in the county.

(b) The filing of copies of all recorded land corner recordation certificates produced pursuant to the county plan with the department.

(c) The exclusion or addition by the county of original public land survey corners or protracted public land survey corners, with the approval of the department, acting in consultation with the commission.

(d) A perpetual monument maintenance plan that provides for all original public land survey corners or protracted public land survey corners included in the county plan, and associated geodetic coordinates, to be maintained by requiring the filing of a land corner recordation certificate as required by the corner recordation act, 1970 PA 74, MCL 54.201 to 54.210d, as necessary.

(e) A peer review group as described in section 9b.

(f) Any other provisions reasonably required by the department for purposes of this act.

(3) If a county fails to establish and submit a plan or revised plan that is approved by the department under subsection (1), the department shall initiate and contract for the implementation of a county plan in that county as provided in section 10.

(4) Subject to subsection (5), after the establishment and approval by the department of a county plan, a county may expend or borrow money to expedite the completion of its plan. If a county elects to expend or borrow money to expedite its county plan, the department shall enter into a contract to provide that the costs to expedite that plan are reimbursed or paid from the fund as provided in section 12(2).

(5) After the effective date of the amendatory act that added section 9a, a county shall not expedite its county plan or expend or borrow money to expedite its county plan. A county that, before the effective date of the amendatory act that added section 9a, expedited its county plan or expended or borrowed money to expedite its county plan shall either have on file with the department a contract entered into under subsection (4) or execute a contract under subsection (4) within 1 year after the effective date of the amendatory act that added section 9a.

(6) A county that expended or borrowed money to expedite its county plan in accordance with this section after January 1, 1991 may recapture costs expended or borrowed and used to expedite that plan. The department shall pay those costs to the county from the fund as provided in section 12(2) over a period of not less than 10 years.

(7) A county plan may provide for the support by a county program of the extension, densification, upgrade, and maintenance of active and passive geodetic control stations.

History: 1990, Act 345, Eff. Jan. 1, 1991;—Am. 1998, Act 5, Imd. Eff. Feb. 6, 1998;—Am. 2002, Act 489, Imd. Eff. June 28, 2002;—Am. 2014, Act 166, Imd. Eff. June 12, 2014.

54.269 County surveyor as county representative for surveying projects.

Sec. 9. The county surveyor in each county in this state shall perform the duties of county representative for all surveying projects approved or initiated under this act. If a county does not have a county surveyor, the county board of commissioners shall appoint a licensed professional surveyor to perform the duties described in this section.

History: 1990, Act 345, Eff. Jan. 1, 1991;—Am. 2014, Act 166, Imd. Eff. June 12, 2014.

54.269a Grant administrator; appointment; responsibilities.

Sec. 9a. A county board of commissioners shall appoint a grant administrator to be responsible for and oversee the county's obligations and money associated with this act.

History: Add. 2014, Act 166, Imd. Eff. June 12, 2014.

54.269b County peer review group as panel of surveyors; appointment; responsibilities.

Sec. 9b. A county board of commissioners shall appoint a county peer review group to act as a panel of surveyors to review and provide advice on original public land survey corners or protracted public land survey corners presented by surveyors before the county accepts the original public land survey corners or protracted public land survey corners for filing under its county plan.

History: Add. 2014, Act 166, Imd. Eff. June 12, 2014.

54.270 Conducting monumentation or remonumentation under negotiated contract; cost.

Sec. 10. (1) Any monumentation or remonumentation conducted under section 8(3) shall be conducted under a negotiated contract. The department shall prepare specifications for each contract negotiated by the department and monitor the field work and notes of work done under each contract to ensure compliance with those specifications.

(2) The department shall pay the cost of any contracts under this section from the fund.

History: 1990, Act 345, Eff. Jan. 1, 1991;—Am. 2014, Act 166, Imd. Eff. June 12, 2014.

54.271 State survey and remonumentation fund; creation as separate fund; administration; deposit of money, interest, and earnings; gifts or donations from individuals or corporations; establishment of restricted subaccounts.

Sec. 11. (1) The state survey and remonumentation fund is created in the state treasury as a separate fund. The fund shall be administered by the department.

(2) Money deposited in the fund, and all interest and earnings generated by the fund, shall not lapse at the end of a fiscal year, but shall remain in the fund to be expended as provided in this act.

(3) The fund may accept money received as gifts or donations, or money received from individuals or corporations to be used for purposes of this act.

(4) The department may direct the department of treasury to establish restricted subaccounts within the fund as necessary to administer the fund.

History: 1990, Act 345, Eff. Jan. 1, 1991;—Am. 2006, Act 76, Imd. Eff. Mar. 24, 2006;—Am. 2014, Act 166, Imd. Eff. June 12, 2014.

54.272 State survey and remonumentation fund; use of money; provisions applicable to deposited funds; limitation.

Sec. 12. (1) Money in the fund shall be used by the department for the following purposes:

(a) Annual grants to the various counties to implement their monumentation and remonumentation plans described in section 8(2)(a).

(b) The implementation of county plans that are initiated and contracted for by the department under section 8(3).

(c) Annual grants to counties to implement their perpetual monument maintenance plans described in section 8(2)(d).

(d) The payment of contracts that are entered into by the department under section 10.

(e) Other activities necessary, incidental, or appropriate to implement this act.

(2) In addition to the purposes described in subsection (1), money in the fund shall be used to pay the costs of expediting a plan or to reimburse the cost described in section 8(4) for a county that has elected to expend or borrow money to expedite the implementation of the county's plan.

(3) Expenditures by the department for a county for the following purposes shall be in an amount not less than the following percentages of the money collected in that county and remitted to the state treasurer for deposit in the fund under section 2567a of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.2567a, during the state fiscal year that began 2 years before the beginning of the state fiscal year in which the expenditure is made:

(a) For an annual grant to the county under subsection (1)(a), 40%.

(b) To implement the county plan if the department initiates and contracts for the implementation of the county plan under section 8(3), 40%.

(c) For an annual grant to the county under subsection (1)(c), 20%.

(d) For purposes described in section 8(2)(d), if the department initiates and contracts for the implementation of the county plan for the county under section 8(3), 20%.

(4) In addition to the purposes described in subsections (1) and (2), to pay this state's equitable share of the costs of the monumentation of the Michigan-Indiana state boundary line pursuant to the Michigan-Indiana state line monumentation act, the legislature may appropriate from the fund a total amount of not more than \$500,000.00 that was appropriated or transferred to the fund after November 1, 2021.

History: 1990, Act 345, Eff. Jan. 1, 1991;—Am. 1998, Act 5, Imd. Eff. Feb. 6, 1998;—Am. 2002, Act 489, Imd. Eff. June 28, 2002;—Am. 2010, Act 260, Eff. Dec. 22, 2010;—Am. 2014, Act 166, Imd. Eff. June 12, 2014;—Am. 2022, Act 82, Imd. Eff. May 19, 2022.

54.273 Application for annual grant; form.

Sec. 13. An application for an annual grant authorized under this act must be made on a form prescribed and furnished by the department. The department may require the applicant to provide any information reasonably necessary to allow the department to make a determination required by this act.

History: 1990, Act 345, Eff. Jan. 1, 1991;—Am. 2014, Act 166, Imd. Eff. June 12, 2014.

54.274 Grant; conditions.

Sec. 14. (1) The department shall not make a grant under section 12(1)(a) unless all of the following conditions are met:

(a) The applicant files an application for the grant on or before December 31 of the calendar year immediately preceding the year in which the grant is made.

(b) The applicant demonstrates to the department the capability to carry out the county plan.

(c) The applicant demonstrates to the department that it has not completed its monumentation and remonumentation plan described in section 8(2)(a).

(2) The department shall make a grant under section 12(1)(c) if the applicant demonstrates to the department that it has completed its monumentation and remonumentation plan described in section 8(2)(a) or if the applicant voluntarily chooses to proceed to the program described in section 8(2)(d).

History: 1990, Act 345, Eff. Jan. 1, 1991;—Am. 2014, Act 166, Imd. Eff. June 12, 2014.

54.275 Grant recipient to obtain authorization for significant change to plan; revocation or withholding of grant.

Sec. 15. (1) A recipient of a grant made under section 12(1)(a), (b), or (d) shall obtain authorization from the department before implementing a change that significantly alters the approved grant.

(2) The department may revoke a grant made by it under this act or withhold payment if the recipient of the grant fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the grant, or with requirements of this act or the rules promulgated under this act.

(3) The department may withhold a grant until the department determines that the recipient is able to proceed with the implementation of the applicant's county plan.

History: 1990, Act 345, Eff. Jan. 1, 1991;—Am. 2014, Act 166, Imd. Eff. June 12, 2014.

54.276 Records.

Sec. 16. (1) The department, upon request, shall provide copies or certified copies of records in its possession to the public, other state agencies or officers, or local governmental agencies. The department may charge a reasonable fee for providing the records.

(2) A certified copy of a record provided by the department is admissible in court as evidence, without further identification, if the substance of the record is properly admissible in the proceeding.

History: 1990, Act 345, Eff. Jan. 1, 1991;—Am. 2014, Act 166, Imd. Eff. June 12, 2014.

54.277 Rules.

Sec. 17. (1) The department shall promulgate rules pursuant to the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328, to implement this act.

(2) In promulgating rules under this section, or in adopting a guideline related to the administration of this act, the department shall consult with and consider recommendations provided to it by the commission.

(3) After the enactment of the amendatory act that added this subsection, the department shall promulgate rules to implement this act as amended by that amendatory act. Before the promulgation of rules under this subsection, the department may continue to administer this act under previously promulgated rules to the extent that the rules do not conflict with this act as amended by that amendatory act.

History: 1990, Act 345, Eff. Jan. 1, 1991;—Am. 2014, Act 166, Imd. Eff. June 12, 2014.

54.277a Contested case proceeding.

Sec. 17a. If a county is aggrieved by a decision of the department that affects the county made under this act or the rules promulgated under this act, the county may contest the decision of the department as a contested case under the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328.

History: Add. 2014, Act 166, Imd. Eff. June 12, 2014.

54.278 Effective date.

Sec. 18. This act shall take effect January 1, 1991.

History: 1990, Act 345, Eff. Jan. 1, 1991.

54.279 Conditional effective date.

Sec. 19. This act shall not take effect unless Senate Bill No. 381 of the 85th Legislature is enacted into law.

History: 1990, Act 345, Eff. Jan. 1, 1991.

Compiler's note: Senate Bill No. 381, referred to in this section, was filed with the Secretary of State December 21, 1990, and became P.A. 1990, No. 346, Eff. Jan. 1, 1991.