

ance supervises the Unemployment Insurance Program carried out by local offices (Code 1957, Art. 95A). The Office collects contributions from employers covered by the Law, collects quarterly wage information on covered employees, determines weekly benefits and eligibility in accordance with this wage information, and issues benefit checks to eligible claimants. It reviews benefit payments to determine if any were improperly made, recovers improper payments, and pays benefits to individuals who formerly worked in Maryland but now reside in other states. As provided by reciprocal interstate agreement, the Office also collects Maryland residents' claims against employers in other states.

Using an experience rating system, the Unemployment Insurance Law allows a reduced contribution rate for employers who maintain steady employment. All funds collected under the Law are deposited with the U.S. Treasury for the credit of the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund of Maryland and may be used only to pay benefits.

BENEFITS & SPECIAL PROGRAMS SECTION

Allan H. Berman, *Director*
(410) 333-5309

The Benefits and Special Programs Section determines claimants' eligibility for unemployment insurance benefits. The Section administers the taking and processing of claims, adjudication of ineligible claims, and fraud detection and prosecution. The Section also oversees interstate combined wage and federal unemployment benefit programs.

CONTRIBUTIONS SECTION

Dennis C. Morton, *Chief*
(410) 333-5317

The Contributions Section establishes employer tax accounts and assigns rates, charges benefits, and collects taxes on each account. The Section also collects all delinquent accounts and maintains the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.

LOWER APPEALS SECTION

Gary Weidel, *Administrator*
(410) 333-5040

The Lower Appeals Section determines claimants' eligibility for unemployment insurance benefits. Following administrative review, the Section hears cases that have been appealed by claimants and employers.

DIVISION OF TOURISM & PROMOTION

R. Dean Kenderdine, *Assistant Secretary*

217 East Redwood St.
Baltimore, MD 21202 (410) 333-6611

The Division of Tourism and Promotion began in 1948 as the Department of Information, a division of the Hall of Records Commission. The Department became an independent agency in 1949. In 1959, it was reorganized as the Tourist Development and Publicity Division within the Department of Economic Development. When the Department of Economic and Community Development was formed, the Division was renamed the Tourism Division in 1970, the Division of Tourist Development by 1973, and the Tourist Development Office by 1981. By 1989, the Office was reorganized as part of the Division of Tourism and Promotion.

The Division of Tourism and Promotion is composed of the Office of Tourism Development and the Maryland State Arts Council. Through these programs, the Division promotes Maryland's quality of life through advertising, and sponsoring publications and events. The Division also supports the arts and the production of films in Maryland.

The Office of Tourism Development promotes Maryland as a travel destination to stimulate the economy by the expenditures of domestic and international tourists. Through the Maryland State Arts Council, 127 arts organizations receive operating grants which support performances and exhibitions and the work of artists throughout the State. The Maryland Film Commission works to provide locations and facilities throughout the State for feature films, television programs, and commercials.

OFFICE OF TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

George E. Williams, *Director*

217 East Redwood St.
Baltimore, MD 21202 (410) 333-6611

Tourism is a major industry in Maryland. During 1990, tourism brought the State more than \$7.3 billion in expenditures, created approximately 73,900 jobs, and generated nearly \$315 million in State and local tax revenue. Showcasing Maryland's unique recreational, historical, and cultural attractions is the responsibility of the Office of Tourism Development.

The Office publicizes major events and notifies travel agents, tour operators, writers, and the Maryland travel industry about new attractions, services, and facilities.

Tourism publications inform the traveling public of Maryland's tourist attractions, accommodations, historic sites, State parks, camping facilities, and recreational opportunities. Updated annually, these