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LANSING

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13th BIENNIAL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE
Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
State Survey & Remonumentation Program
1990 PA 345 et seq
July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2017
Purpose and History of the State Survey & Remonumentation Act (SSRA)

Act	Purpose
1990 PA 345	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created the State Survey and Remonumentation Commission • Created the SSRA fund and provide for its use • Coordinate and implement the remonumentation of property controlling corners in the state • Provide for duties of certain state and local officers and agencies • Require the promulgation of rules
ERO 1996-2 ERO 1997-12	Dissolved the State Survey and Remonumentation Commission and its Executive Director, transferring their statutory authority, powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities to the Director of the Department of Consumer and Industry Services, now Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA).
1998 PA 5	Permitted counties to “expedite” completion of their county plan. These counties would complete remonumentation sooner by “loaning” local monies to the county’s remonumentation program to pre-fund the completion of their remonumentation work. These loaned monies could then be recovered at later dates through grant distributions or contractual agreement with the Department.
2002 PA 700	The Revised Judicature Act of 1961 was amended to increase county recording fees to set aside \$4 for the State Survey and Remonumentation Fund. This increase, however, included a 2013 “sunset.”
2006 PA 76	\$15 Million was transferred from the State Survey and Remonumentation Fund to the State’s General Fund. As part of the amendment, the Legislature intended to guarantee deposits of \$10.134 Million in FY 2005-2006 and \$11.134 Million in FY’s 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 by making up the difference between these totals and the statutory deposits from the Registers of Deeds collections. Due to the economic situation during this timeframe, monies were not available to the Legislature to make these intended appropriations, and the 2006 PA 76 language guaranteeing the State General Fund deposits was removed from the act under 2014 PA 166.
2006 PA 662	Extended the sunset date from 2013 to January 1, 2023, at which time the \$4 set-aside for the State Survey and Remonumentation Fund will return to the original \$2 through the Revised Judicature Act of 1961.

2010 PA 259	Established a joint commission with the State of Indiana for the “...recovery or replacement of durable monuments defining the Michigan-Indiana state boundary line...”
2010 PA 260	Funded Michigan’s share of the Michigan-Indiana state boundary line project, providing a set-aside of \$500,000 from the State Survey and Remonumentation Fund “...to pay the costs of the monumentation of the Michigan-Indiana state boundary line...” In 2014 a \$200,000 project appropriation was made to support these activities.
2014 PA 166	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded the use of the fund to allow counties to perpetuate corners that were not monumented in the original GLO surveys • Required coordinate values for each corner • Allowed funds to be used to maintain CORS infrastructure • Reinstated the State Survey and Remonumentation Commission as an advisory panel • Required counties to review and update the county plans after the promulgation of rules

Statutory Reporting

Section 6(1)(f) Requires a biennial status report to the Legislature and each county board of commissioners from the Department identifying seven specific items to be reported on. Those items and Department comments follow.

Section 6(1)(f)(i): *A summary of the Department's activities regarding administration of this act.*

We are reporting on this item referencing **Sections 6(1)(a) through (e)** which identify the Department’s responsibilities.

Sections 6(1)(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.*

In 2011, the Department entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), the Michigan History Foundation and the Archives of Michigan to image, catalogue and provide online access to the original U.S. government survey plats. Following completion of this project in 2012, a second project was initiated to image and catalogue the original field notebooks used by the U.S. government surveyors to record their work and make them available to the public online. This provides access to County Registers of Deeds, county surveyors, private land surveyors, and the public access to the information which is currently limited due to its fragile condition as well as a safe secondary storage method for preserving the original records.

Sections 6(1)(b) *Establish a policy to maintain and provide safe storage of records required to be filed with the department under this act.*

In the initial phases of the program, the Department established a database for Land Corner Recordation Certificates (LCRC) completed through the State Survey and Remonumentation Program. Through this database LCRC documents completed through county

remonumentation efforts are imaged, catalogued and made available to the public online. During 2017, it was discovered that this database software used since the inception of the program became obsolete as a result of upgrades to Windows that began in December 2016. A temporary fix has been utilized while a true next-generation solution is being planned at this time.

At the inception of the State Survey and Remonumentation Program, the Department acquired records from the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) for all of their horizontal and vertical control stations located within Michigan. These records were disseminated to the counties and updates solicited. NGS has since developed an on-line digital database of their control stations. Access to this data is available to the public, and there is no longer a need for the Department to update records for these stations.

Section 6(1)(c) *Coordinate memoranda of understanding with other state, federal, and local agencies to promote the activities necessary, incidental, or appropriate to promote this act.*

In 1993 through 1995 the Department collaborated with the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) to establish passive geodetic control stations as part of High Accuracy Reference Network (HARN) for Michigan. The Department was the central point of contact for NGS and coordinated efforts between NGS and locals to establish 80 control stations across the state.

In 2002 through 2008, the Department collaborated with NGS, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and counties to densify a network of next generation active geodetic control stations, i.e., Continuous Operating Reference Stations (CORS), in Michigan. Through these joint efforts, the State of Michigan currently maintains 88 CORS.

In 2006 and 2007, NGS initiated a height modernization project in Michigan, combining efforts between NGS, MDOT and the counties to maximize passive control station recoveries ahead of NGS and MDOT's work to measure station locations through GPS observations and high accuracy spirit leveling.

We are currently working with MDOT, MDNR and the U.S. Forest Service to coordinate efforts of filing LCRC's through the county programs, which may lead to one or more memoranda of understanding.

Section 6(1)(d) *Foster, encourage, and promote county plans for each county in this state and, after submission of county plans, review the plans for approval.*

The Department is in the process of working with the State Survey and Remonumentation Commission to develop a new model county plan to incorporate the changes from 2014 PA 166. After a new model county plan has been accepted, it will be distributed to the counties for them to provide revised county plans to reflect the statutory changes of 2014 PA 166.

Section 6(1)(e) *Coordinate and administer a grant program for grants to counties to implement this act.*

With the support of the Department, all 83 Michigan counties have implemented remonumentation plans and are actively participating in the program.

In June, 2017, LARA evaluated the Remonumentation program through the Lean Process Improvement (LPI) system. The preliminary conclusions included in part:

- The creation of a handbook to provide information and guidance to anyone involved in the grant process.
- The establishment of an annual kick-off/training meeting for grant administrators and county representatives to review the process, forms and any process updates.
- The development of a new software system to update existing software functions.

Section 6(1)(f)(ii): *An assessment of the progress of the implementation of county monumentation and remonumentation plans throughout this state.*

We estimate, based on the annual corner counts reported by the counties in their 2016 completion reports, that the remonumentation of corners is approximately 67% percent complete. It is estimated that there are approximately 225,500 total remonumentation corners in the state. At the close of the 2016 grant year 146,900 of those remonumentation corners have been completed.

With the 2015 grant year three counties (Kent, Muskegon and Ottawa) have moved out of the monumentation and remonumentation plan and are now working under their perpetual monument maintenance plan to maintain their corners both physically and in the public record. No other counties have moved into their perpetual monument maintenance plan at this time.

Section 6(1)(f)(iii): *A statement regarding the amount of money that was received and disbursed from the fund.*

See Table A.

Section 6(1)(f)(iv): *An assessment of how much money is necessary to carry out monumentation or remonumentation of the entire state.*

We anticipate changes made by 2014 PA 166 implemented in the 2015 grant year will significantly change our previous estimates to complete remonumentation of the state; however, not enough data is available at this time to project the updated program's needs.

Once remonumentation of the entire state is completed, we estimate the perpetual monument maintenance program will require approximately \$10 Million a year to maintain all remonumentation corners on a 20-year cycle. This estimate is based on the average cost to complete a corner in 2014. This estimate will be revisited once the Revised County Plans are approved.

Section 6(1)(f)(v): *An assessment of whether the money received in the fund is adequate to implement this act.*

The money currently received in the fund is the minimum amount needed for the program to progress at an acceptable rate. If the average annual funding remains relatively constant, it will take approximately 20-30 more years to complete the remonumentation of the entire state. However, with the current sunset date for the set-aside from registers of deeds recording fees of January 1, 2023, at which time the \$4 set-aside for the State Survey and Remonumentation Fund will be reduced to \$2, it is estimated that it may take 40-60 years or more to complete remonumentation of the entire state.

Section 6(1)(f)(vi): *Recommendations including, but not limited to, the level of funding that is necessary to implement this act.*

Amend 1961 PA 236, Revised Judicature Act of 1961, remove the sunset date, and maintain the current register of deeds recording fee set-aside of \$4 for the State Survey and Remonumentation Fund.

Section 6(1)(f)(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.*

Table B reports the program status through the 2016 grant year. Program changes from 2014 PA 166 were not implemented until 2015.

TABLE A

Grant Year	Remonumentation Fee (in \$)	FY Deposits into Remonumentation Fund (in Millions of \$)	Funds Appropriated for Remonumentation Grants (in Millions of \$)	Funds Expended for Remonumentation Grants (in Millions of \$)
1991	\$2.00	\$1.29	N/A	N/A
1992	\$2.00	\$3.42	N/A	N/A
1993	\$2.00	\$3.87	\$4.00	\$4.00
1994	\$2.00	\$4.26	\$5.00	\$5.00
1995	\$2.00	\$3.30	\$3.00	\$3.00
1996	\$2.00	\$3.72	\$4.00	\$4.00
1997	\$2.00	\$3.83	\$4.00	\$4.00
1998	\$2.00	\$4.78	\$4.00	\$4.00
1999	\$2.00	\$5.48	\$4.00	\$4.00
2000	\$2.00	\$5.10	\$4.50	\$4.50
2001	\$2.00	\$4.78	\$5.00	\$5.00
2002	\$2.00	\$6.50	\$6.00	\$5.91
2003	\$4.00	\$8.67	\$6.00	\$5.75
2004	\$4.00	\$14.49	\$10.00	\$9.69
2005	\$4.00	\$10.71	\$10.00	\$9.60
2006	\$4.00	\$10.02	\$10.00	\$9.71
2007	\$4.00	\$8.47	\$10.00	\$9.79
2008	\$4.00	\$6.95	\$7.50	\$7.29
2009	\$4.00	\$6.08	\$4.00	\$3.82
2010	\$4.00	\$5.83	\$5.30	\$5.00
2011	\$4.00	\$5.92	\$5.30	\$4.85
2012	\$4.00	\$6.45	\$5.30	\$5.21
2013	\$4.00	\$7.85	\$5.30	\$5.13
2014	\$4.00	\$6.47	\$7.30	\$7.13
2015	\$4.00	\$6.78	\$7.30	\$7.12
2016	\$4.00	\$6.63	\$5.13	\$5.06
Total		\$161.65	\$141.93	\$138.56

TABLE B

County	Total Remon Corners In County	Remon Corners Completed thru 2016 Grant Cycle	Percent Remon Corners Completed thru 2016 Grant Cycle	Average Spent per Corner Completed	Total State Grants Awarded thru 2016 Grant Cycle	Total State Grants Earned thru 2016 Grant Cycle
Alcona	2,411	1,160	48.11%	\$832.46	\$969,583.97	\$965,650.55
Alger	3,802	1,494	39.30%	\$835.49	\$1,251,781.97	\$1,248,221.80
Allegan	3,131	2,869	91.63%	\$653.99	\$1,959,314.41	\$1,876,303.71
Alpena	1,973	1,060	53.73%	\$841.96	\$827,833.67	\$822,596.20
Antrim	2,148	843	39.25%	\$1,062.74	\$904,011.89	\$895,891.65
Arenac	1,398	677	48.43%	\$880.82	\$596,450.46	\$596,314.21
Baraga	3,643	1,153	31.65%	\$1,018.77	\$1,182,285.86	\$1,174,637.78
Barry	2,070	1,729	83.53%	\$709.98	\$1,252,741.50	\$1,227,557.94
Bay	1,925	1,994	103.58%	\$913.10	\$1,913,418.83	\$1,820,720.23
Benzie	1,249	963	77.10%	\$596.83	\$664,764.29	\$574,742.51
Berrien	2,279	1,254	55.02%	\$1,354.69	\$1,737,034.19	\$1,698,781.91
Branch	1,872	1,154	61.65%	\$774.50	\$894,508.59	\$893,769.60
Calhoun	2,604	2,579	99.04%	\$819.35	\$2,144,234.92	\$2,113,109.30
Cass	2,236	861	38.51%	\$1,067.82	\$952,100.29	\$919,392.33
Charlevoix	1,621	652	40.22%	\$1,540.53	\$1,001,233.13	\$1,004,424.60
Cheboygan	2,604	1,418	54.45%	\$790.65	\$1,123,541.09	\$1,121,135.26
Chippewa	6,480	3,352	51.73%	\$704.11	\$2,360,193.70	\$2,360,190.54
Clare	2,223	1,698	76.38%	\$612.39	\$1,040,069.51	\$1,039,843.26
Clinton	2,071	1,208	58.33%	\$1,016.85	\$1,231,183.20	\$1,228,353.61
Crawford	1,970	1,157	58.73%	\$747.57	\$877,557.04	\$864,934.95
Delta	4,791	3,829	79.92%	\$505.93	\$1,940,466.15	\$1,937,197.64
Dickinson	3,098	2,085	67.30%	\$536.51	\$1,120,150.08	\$1,118,618.49
Eaton	2,050	1,829	89.22%	\$916.12	\$1,675,806.33	\$1,675,590.78
Emmet	1,955	958	49.00%	\$942.38	\$909,269.46	\$902,797.57
Genesee	2,203	2,158	97.96%	\$1,421.39	\$3,094,888.25	\$3,067,355.03
Gladwin	1,741	1,391	79.90%	\$637.03	\$886,106.80	\$886,106.80
Gogebic	4,097	3,028	73.91%	\$494.29	\$1,504,425.61	\$1,496,701.81
Gr. Traverse	1,967	1,603	81.49%	\$793.88	\$1,274,241.09	\$1,272,582.44

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Gratiot	1,940	1,194	61.55%	\$868.08	\$1,037,629.95	\$1,036,492.82
Hillsdale	2,059	1,142	55.46%	\$919.02	\$1,049,997.48	\$1,049,524.33
Houghton	3,920	1,376	35.10%	\$1,051.94	\$1,452,117.94	\$1,447,468.87
Huron	3,017	1,671	55.39%	\$765.36	\$1,303,879.70	\$1,278,922.69
Ingham	2,038	1,913	93.87%	\$1,173.76	\$2,245,480.77	\$2,245,395.00
Ionia	2,598	1,442	55.50%	\$741.13	\$1,068,711.26	\$1,068,711.26
Iosco	1,868	1,054	56.42%	\$849.72	\$902,575.86	\$895,602.48
Iron	4,275	2,993	70.01%	\$516.27	\$1,547,570.49	\$1,545,196.58
Isabella	2,192	1,819	82.98%	\$647.18	\$1,177,315.17	\$1,177,227.72
Jackson	2,476	2,036	82.23%	\$924.98	\$1,901,323.12	\$1,883,249.55
Kalamazoo	2,137	1,635	76.51%	\$1,241.80	\$2,161,905.42	\$2,030,336.08
Kalkaska	2,135	1,713	80.23%	\$498.85	\$852,752.00	\$854,522.00
Kent	3,371	3,371	100.00%	\$1,205.97	\$4,755,045.84	\$4,065,336.11
Keweenaw	2,670	698	26.14%	\$988.60	\$694,930.48	\$690,045.25
Lake	2,097	1,587	75.68%	\$531.89	\$844,111.00	\$844,110.60
Lapeer	2,240	1,303	58.17%	\$1,053.29	\$1,374,183.59	\$1,372,437.58
Leelanau	1,573	970	61.67%	\$690.13	\$673,847.83	\$669,423.49
Lenawee	2,541	1,611	63.40%	\$922.99	\$1,558,217.99	\$1,486,944.54
Livingston	2,350	2,350	100.00%	\$1,207.33	\$2,939,233.67	\$2,837,215.27
Luce	3,617	1,587	43.88%	\$735.29	\$1,166,909.28	\$1,166,909.28
Mackinac	5,354	2,422	45.24%	\$599.73	\$1,452,893.25	\$1,452,536.04
Macomb	1,732	1,670	96.42%	\$3,490.99	\$5,833,758.50	\$5,829,954.07
Manistee	2,306	1,447	62.75%	\$589.07	\$867,501.55	\$852,378.41
Marquette	7,547	2,356	31.22%	\$1,212.65	\$2,859,675.52	\$2,857,008.34
Mason	3,360	1,674	49.82%	\$489.55	\$823,868.43	\$819,502.81
Mecosta	2,182	1,965	90.05%	\$497.99	\$988,951.24	\$978,556.53
Menominee	4,076	3,748	91.95%	\$417.99	\$1,611,185.27	\$1,566,609.51
Midland	1,912	1,418	74.16%	\$828.19	\$1,174,371.52	\$1,174,371.52
Missaukee	2,319	1,450	62.53%	\$571.06	\$828,037.57	\$828,037.57

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Monroe	2,362	1,467	62.11%	\$1,038.32	\$1,564,471.67	\$1,523,218.85
Montcalm	2,632	2,115	80.36%	\$778.46	\$1,650,409.73	\$1,646,447.12
Montmorency	2,054	1,367	66.55%	\$596.78	\$819,799.20	\$815,794.40
Muskegon	2,012	2,012	100.00%	\$804.62	\$1,712,682.11	\$1,618,897.33
Newaygo	3,368	2,842	84.38%	\$613.80	\$1,744,455.71	\$1,744,405.54
Oakland	4,406	4,334	98.37%	\$2,263.04	\$9,908,765.18	\$9,808,015.13
Oceana	2,025	1,637	80.84%	\$544.03	\$891,109.85	\$890,578.30
Ogemaw	1,986	949	47.78%	\$954.28	\$910,292.87	\$905,613.26
Ontonagon	6,159	3,028	49.16%	\$538.74	\$1,687,072.33	\$1,631,310.59
Osceola	2,180	2,091	95.92%	\$492.48	\$1,029,828.85	\$1,029,774.23
Oscoda	2,240	1,691	75.49%	\$473.79	\$801,177.03	\$801,177.03
Otsego	2,073	1,030	49.69%	\$748.76	\$833,483.25	\$771,222.29
Ottawa	2,186	2,245	102.70%	\$1,024.64	\$2,481,697.81	\$2,300,318.87
Presque Isle	2,424	1,424	58.75%	\$665.13	\$947,141.68	\$947,140.95
Roscommon	2,155	1,618	75.08%	\$745.81	\$1,210,621.55	\$1,206,725.59
Saginaw	3,080	1,846	59.94%	\$1,054.56	\$2,035,819.88	\$1,946,726.40
Sanilac	3,480	2,075	59.63%	\$723.07	\$1,500,722.68	\$1,500,364.28
Schoolcraft	4,980	2,120	42.57%	\$733.43	\$1,555,183.35	\$1,554,872.94
Shiawassee	1,838	1,590	86.51%	\$866.05	\$1,377,833.77	\$1,377,021.46
St. Clair	2,753	1,491	54.16%	\$1,554.70	\$2,325,976.09	\$2,318,056.88
St. Joseph	2,224	1,369	61.56%	\$828.08	\$1,135,360.64	\$1,133,647.36
Tuscola	2,900	1,567	54.03%	\$927.55	\$1,454,337.48	\$1,453,473.49
Van Buren	2,304	1,391	60.37%	\$1,209.57	\$1,716,779.31	\$1,682,517.06
Washtenaw	2,722	2,178	80.01%	\$1,290.85	\$2,853,498.20	\$2,811,473.08
Wayne	3,017	2,292	75.97%	\$4,939.72	\$11,952,568.79	\$11,321,831.77
Wexford	2,144	1,357	63.29%	\$689.14	\$935,226.94	\$935,156.77
Total	225,218	146,897			\$141,554,828.92	\$138,564,310.95
Average			67.38%	\$932.08		