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STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

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14th BIENNIAL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE
State Survey & Remonumentation Program
1990 PA 345 et seq
July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2019

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.
2011 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)	The department entered a MOU 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, the Geographic Information community and the general public, and provides a secondary access/storage method for now fragile records. The original instructions focused on the Government Land Office (GLO) notes for sectionalized lands. It did not include the notes for the private (French) claims and the Ten Thousand Acre Tract lands around Detroit, most eastern counties and some counties in the Upper Peninsula.
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. Those items and Department comments follow.

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

In addition to the history listed at the beginning of this document, the department has worked closely with the State Survey and Remonumentation Commission members in the promulgation of rules, the assembly of a draft county plan, and the implementation of new software. The commission is used as a connection with the industry and to help keep the program on track. It is informed of progress being made and is used as counsel for decisions that could impact the program.

Training resumed in October, 2018 at four locations around the state. 76 of the 83 counties participated in the training, and it was recommended that we continue training every year to cover the basics as well as any changes in the program. Training is scheduled again for October, 2019 in Marquette, Gaylord, Flint and Grand Rapids.

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

The development of the draft county plan ran concurrently with the review and promulgation of rules. Once the draft was discussed with the Commission, the county plans were discussed at meetings through the Michigan Society of Professional Surveyors and the United County Officials Association in 2018 and 2019. They were also discussed during a training session held in four locations across the state in October 2018. Training will be held again in October 2019 where we will discuss the county plans. The county plans are due March 1, 2020.

In order to comply with MCL 54.268 (2), the revised county plans must include at minimum:

- A list of the corners to be done in the county and the corners already completed. Corners not in the plan will be considered excluded.
- The specific datum the county prefers the geodetic coordinates to be used.
- A perpetual monument maintenance plan and an estimate of when it will begin.
- Peer review group rules developed by the county.
- Any revision of items already covered in the original county plan.

Currently, the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) is reviewing the activities of the OLSR.

It should be highlighted that we added two counties to the rather small list of counties who are in maintenance. OLSR recognizes the following counties in maintenance:

- Bay
- Kent
- Livingston
- Muskegon
- Ottawa

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

See Table A.

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

Changes made by 2014 PA 166 significantly changed our previous estimates to complete remonumentation of the state by allowing counties to add protracted and property controlling corners. To put it into perspective, there are 36 possible centers of section in a standard town. There are roughly 1,660 full towns in the State of Michigan. This item alone adds hypothetically 59,760 corners to the program. Not enough data is available currently to project the updated program's needs. More accurate numbers will be available for the 2021 report as a result of updated county plans.

Once remonumentation of the entire state is completed, we estimate the perpetual monument maintenance program will require approximately \$10 million per 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 and will be revised when the Revised County Plans are approved.

(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. With the current sunset date for the set-aside from the register of deeds recording fees of January 1, 2023, at which time the \$4 fee 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.

(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 to remove the sunset date and maintain the current register of deeds recording fee of \$4 for the State Survey and Remonumentation Fund.
- Amend 1990 PA 345, State Survey and Remonumentation Act to provide a target percentage complete of 95% or better to mandatorily treat the county as being in maintenance as outlined in MCL 54.268 (2)(a)(iii)(d).

(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.*

See Table B. The yearly amount has been based on two criteria: 40% of the amount sent in two years prior (20% for counties in maintenance) and the remaining amount is divided among the counties based on the proportion of the area of the county in relation to the total area of the state.

The numbers for the Total Remon Corners in County will change based on the Revised County Plans. It is anticipated the numbers in Table B will change significantly in the next report. The reasons for adjusted numbers include:

- The total number of corners column will change based on the new County Plans. Many counties indicated that the numbers used were only estimates from the 1990's and based only on the GLO corners. No centers or meander corners were considered. See item iv for an example.
- The corners completed column is based on the number of records that exist in our table. The new software allows some reporting features that we can use to determine the number of records. However, since the law was revised in 2014, counties have been including centers that were not reflected in the total number and also revisiting corners already done to determine the geodetic coordinates. See item iv for an example. This is taking time and money away from completing the program for a function that should be reserved for maintenance. This is causing some counties to show over 100% complete when they are not ready for maintenance.

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	\$9.81	\$9.69
2005	\$4.00	\$10.71	\$10.00	\$9.60
2006	\$4.00 *See 2006 PA 76	\$10.02	\$10.11 \$15.00*	\$9.71 \$15.00*
2007	\$4.00	\$8.47	\$10.13	\$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	\$5.09	\$5.00
2011	\$4.00	\$5.92	\$5.08	\$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
2017	\$4.00	\$6.97	\$5.62	\$5.46
2018	\$4.00	\$6.54	\$6.63	\$6.37
Total		\$175.16	\$168.80	\$165.39

Table B

County	Total Remon Corners In County	Remon Corners Completed thru 2018 Grant Cycle	Percent Remon Corners Completed thru 2018 Grant Cycle	Average Spent per Corner Completed	Total State Grants Awarded thru 2018 Grant Cycle	Total State Grants Expended thru 2018 Grant Cycle
Alcona	2,411	1,493	61.9%	\$709.64	\$1,063,483.97	\$1,059,490.64
Alger	3,802	1,599	42.1%	\$855.93	\$1,372,460.97	\$1,368,625.51
Allegan	3,131	3,055	97.6%	\$672.65	\$2,140,789.41	\$2,054,937.92
Alpena	1,973	1,295	65.6%	\$763.71	\$995,193.67	\$989,002.38
Antrim	2,148	929	43.3%	\$1,050.91	\$986,007.89	\$976,297.05
Arenac	1,398	741	53.0%	\$884.11	\$655,262.46	\$655,126.21
Baraga	3,643	1,269	34.8%	\$1,017.48	\$1,299,257.86	\$1,291,183.61
Barry	2,070	2,232	107.8%	\$594.20	\$1,356,006.50	\$1,326,247.50
Bay	1,925	2,687	139.6%	\$715.18	\$2,014,381.83	\$1,921,683.23
Benzie	1,249	1,035	82.9%	\$608.85	\$720,270.29	\$630,160.51
Berrien	2,279	1,646	72.2%	\$1,120.01	\$1,886,508.19	\$1,843,537.37
Branch	1,872	1,252	66.9%	\$780.46	\$977,883.59	\$977,141.33
Calhoun	2,604	3,076	118.1%	\$734.64	\$2,290,657.09	\$2,226,805.73
Cass	2,236	1017	45.5%	\$994.29	\$1,045,613.29	\$1,011,191.99
Charlevoix	1,621	812	50.1%	\$1,318.15	\$1,077,484.13	\$1,070,334.56
Cheboygan	2,604	1,742	66.9%	\$704.25	\$1,229,657.09	\$1,226,805.73
Chippewa	6,480	3,660	56.5%	\$702.72	\$2,571,941.70	\$2,571,938.54
Clare	2,223	1,871	84.2%	\$605.46	\$1,133,048.51	\$1,132,822.26
Clinton	2,071	1,487	71.8%	\$899.02	\$1,339,669.20	\$1,336,839.61
Crawford	1,970	1,219	61.9%	\$775.21	\$957,612.04	\$944,981.44
Delta	4,791	4,279	89.3%	\$491.56	\$2,106,639.15	\$2,103,370.64
Dickinson	3,098	2,521	81.4%	\$486.67	\$1,228,545.08	\$1,226,902.09
Eaton	2,050	2,360	115.1%	\$760.82	\$1,795,748.33	\$1,795,532.78
Emmet	1,955	912	46.6%	\$1,077.98	\$991,736.46	\$983,117.79
Genesee	2,203	2,257	102.5%	\$1,447.45	\$3,296,854.25	\$3,266,889.53
Gladwin	1,741	1,514	86.9%	\$640.68	\$969,984.80	\$969,984.80
Gogebic	4,097	3,946	96.3%	\$415.47	\$1,650,137.61	\$1,639,446.26
Gr. Traverse	1,967	1,777	90.3%	\$781.35	\$1,393,419.09	\$1,388,450.82

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Gratiot	1,940	1,437	74.1%	\$783.38	\$1,126,851.95	\$1,125,714.82
Hillsdale	2,059	1,418	68.9%	\$808.26	\$1,146,581.48	\$1,146,108.33
Houghton	3,920	1,522	38.8%	\$1,044.11	\$1,594,375.94	\$1,589,139.36
Huron	3,017	1,824	60.5%	\$771.28	\$1,431,786.70	\$1,406,819.57
Ingham	2,038	2,472	121.3%	\$976.69	\$2,414,685.77	\$2,414,374.02
Ionia	2,598	1,534	59.0%	\$761.40	\$1,167,983.26	\$1,167,983.26
Iosco	1,868	1,147	61.4%	\$855.45	\$988,672.86	\$981,199.98
Iron	4,275	3,851	90.1%	\$440.52	\$1,701,337.49	\$1,696,432.43
Isabella	2,192	2,037	92.9%	\$625.64	\$1,274,510.17	\$1,274,422.72
Jackson	2,476	2,402	97.0%	\$849.88	\$2,059,572.12	\$2,041,419.13
Kalamazoo	2,137	2,226	104.2%	\$995.11	\$2,347,169.42	\$2,215,124.59
Kalkaska	2,135	1,821	85.3%	\$498.85	\$930,556.00	\$930,556.00
Kent	3,371	8,268	245.0%	\$520.77	\$5,005,719.84	\$4,305,711.36
Keweenaw	2,670	745	27.9%	\$1,019.20	\$764,409.48	\$759,300.68
Lake	2,097	1,774	84.6%	\$522.52	\$926,954.00	\$926,953.60
Lapeer	2,240	1,640	73.2%	\$911.73	\$1,497,410.59	\$1,495,242.72
Leelanau	1,573	1,016	64.6%	\$721.86	\$738,034.83	\$733,412.22
Lenawee	2,541	1,869	73.5%	\$865.23	\$1,701,816.99	\$1,617,117.15
Livingston	2,350	3,030	128.9%	\$996.32	\$3,120,868.67	\$3,018,850.27
Luce	3,617	1,706	47.2%	\$752.02	\$1,282,942.28	\$1,282,942.28
Mackinac	5,354	2,014	37.6%	\$789.33	\$1,590,072.25	\$1,589,715.04
Macomb	1,732	2,645	152.7%	\$2,376.81	\$6,290,468.50	\$6,286,664.07
Manistee	2,306	1,655	71.8%	\$538.59	\$954,368.55	\$891,362.44
Marquette	7,547	2,537	33.6%	\$1,227.97	\$3,118,620.52	\$3,115,371.30
Mason	3,360	1,765	52.5%	\$509.37	\$903,441.43	\$899,043.29
Mecosta	2,182	2,328	106.7%	\$460.10	\$1,082,510.24	\$1,071,110.67
Menominee	4,076	4,004	98.2%	\$424.46	\$1,754,765.27	\$1,699,550.00
Midland	1,912	1,713	89.6%	\$746.62	\$1,278,957.52	\$1,278,957.52
Missaukee	2,319	1,205	52.0%	\$755.28	\$910,109.57	\$910,109.57

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Monroe	2,362	1,481	62.7%	\$1,118.99	\$1,699,966.67	\$1,657,228.73
Montcalm	2,632	2,501	95.0%	\$706.93	\$1,771,985.73	\$1,768,023.12
Montmorency	2,054	1,427	69.5%	\$625.78	\$897,443.20	\$892,991.33
Muskegon	2,012	2,738	136.1%	\$628.27	\$1,815,180.11	\$1,720,201.79
Newaygo	3,368	3,017	89.6%	\$622.15	\$1,877,089.71	\$1,877,039.79
Oakland	4,406	4,619	104.8%	\$2,240.22	\$10,648,060.18	\$10,347,575.13
Oceana	2,025	1,618	79.9%	\$602.56	\$975,473.85	\$974,942.30
Ogemaw	1,986	1340	67.5%	\$740.02	\$996,309.87	\$991,630.26
Ontonagon	6,159	3,214	52.2%	\$559.38	\$1,855,405.33	\$1,797,851.09
Osceola	2,180	2,254	103.4%	\$495.10	\$1,116,018.85	\$1,115,964.23
Oscoda	2,240	1,724	77.0%	\$509.70	\$878,717.03	\$878,717.03
Otsego	2,073	1,175	56.7%	\$727.96	\$917,613.25	\$855,351.48
Ottawa	2,186	3,480	159.2%	\$692.99	\$2,624,370.81	\$2,411,610.93
Presque Isle	2,424	1,495	61.7%	\$692.68	\$1,040,186.68	\$1,035,554.29
Roscommon	2,155	1,773	82.3%	\$728.96	\$1,297,392.55	\$1,292,442.51
Saginaw	3,080	2,123	68.9%	\$999.74	\$2,212,990.88	\$2,122,453.01
Sanilac	3,480	2,158	62.0%	\$762.03	\$1,644,809.68	\$1,644,451.28
Schoolcraft	4,980	2,377	47.7%	\$718.41	\$1,707,970.35	\$1,707,659.94
Shiawassee	1,838	1,935	105.3%	\$772.50	\$1,475,633.77	\$1,494,790.37
St. Clair	2,753	1,742	63.3%	\$1,424.65	\$2,489,896.09	\$2,481,743.46
St. Joseph	2,224	1,419	63.8%	\$863.19	\$1,226,550.64	\$1,224,867.36
Tuscola	2,900	1,866	64.3%	\$847.24	\$1,581,819.48	\$1,580,947.80
Van Buren	2,304	1,701	73.8%	\$1,057.88	\$1,833,717.31	\$1,799,455.06
Washtenaw	2,722	2,274	83.5%	\$1,338.10	\$3,092,855.20	\$3,042,836.71
Wayne	3,017	3,359	111.3%	\$3,798.37	\$13,451,299.79	\$12,758,709.88
Wexford	2,144	1,494	69.7%	\$685.43	\$1,024,104.94	\$1,024,027.66
2006 PA 76					\$15,000,000.00	\$15,000,000.00
Total	225,218	173,592			\$168,804,892.92	\$165,391,571.33
Average			77.1%	\$856.98		