



OFFICE OF STATE PLANNING AND BUDGETING

A Fact Sheet

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Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies

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The Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) is comprised of ten divisions or offices: the Executive Director's Office; Division of Banking; Division of Civil Rights; Office of Consumer Counsel (telecommunication, utility, electric, and gas issues); Division of Financial Services; Division of Insurance; Public Utilities Commission; Division of Real Estate; Division of Registrations; and the Division of Securities. The Department also includes forty boards and commissions that serve and protect the citizens of Colorado by regulating professional individuals and business organizations. The Department carries out its regulatory function through programs that license, establish standards, approve rates, investigate complaints, and conduct enforcement.

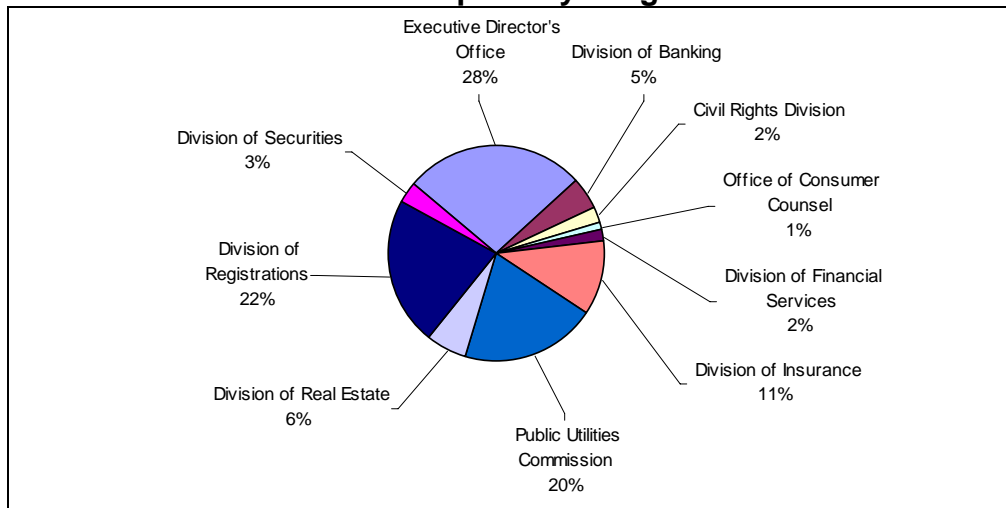
FY 2007-08 Appropriation

Total Appropriation:	\$72,918,590
Percent of Statewide Total Appropriation:	0.4%
General Fund Appropriation:	\$1,416,593
Percent of Statewide General Fund Appropriation:	<0.1%
Total Full Time Equivalent Employees (FTE):	558.5

FY 2008-09 Budget Request

Total Request:	\$75,945,189
Percent of Statewide Total:	0.4%
General Fund Request:	\$1,419,841
Percent of Statewide General Fund:	0.0%
Total Full Time Equivalent Employees (FTE):	562.7

FY 2008-09 Request by Program Area



Department in Summary FY 2008-09

- The Department of Regulatory Agencies is comprised of ten divisions; the Executive Director's Office and Administrative Services, the Division of Banking, the Division of Civil Rights, the Office of Consumer Counsel, the Division of Financial Services, the Division of Insurance, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), the Division of Real Estate, the Division of Registrations and the Division of Securities. With the exception of the Civil Rights Division, which receives significant General Fund support, the Divisions are primarily funded through fees and assessments.
- The Division of Insurance's mission is to provide Consumer Protection. The Division is charged by statute with supervising the business of insurance in Colorado to ensure that it is conducted in accordance with state laws and protects policyholders and the general public. This oversight includes, but is not limited to, various types of insurance companies, fraternal benefit societies, title insurance companies, and healthcare companies. The Division also regulates non-traditional entities such as governmental self-insurance pools, captives, Limited Service Licensed Provider Networks and preneed contract sellers. Overall, the Division regulates the insurance industry and assists consumers with all insurance issues.
- The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) appropriation has increased \$375,892 (Cash Funds and Cash Funds Exempt) in Fiscal Year 2008-09. State law gives the PUC the authority to regulate the rates and services of public utilities within the State. By law, public utilities are defined as electrical, common carrier, pipeline, gas, and telephone, telegraph and water corporations that supply their services to the public.
- With a Fiscal Year 2008-09 appropriation of \$16,806,053, the Division of Registrations will continue to provide public protection through its regulation of over 265,000 licensees within more than 30 professions and occupations. The Division is responsible for licensing boards and programs that have been created by the Colorado General Assembly to ensure a minimal level of competence of licensees and to protect the public.
- The Division of Real Estate is responsible for licensing real estate brokers and appraisers as well as overseeing the regulation of mortgage brokers. The Real Estate Commission is made up of 5 board members and works along with the Appraisal Board to serve as the policy making bodies of the Division.
- The Department's Fiscal Year 2008-09 budget request increased \$3,026,599 and 4.2 FTE from Fiscal Year 2007-08.

Leading Budget Change Requests for FY 2008-09:

- Board of Medical Examiners Complaint Management- The Department requested \$72,915 Cash Funds, from the Division of Registrations Cash Fund, and 1.0 FTE to manage and expedite high priority and complex complaints received by the Board of Medical Examiners. The Board is charged with assuring public protection to the citizens of the state of Colorado from incompetent, unethical, and unsafe practitioners.

- License Records Management Funding- The Department requested \$89,706 Cash Funds, from the Division of Registrations Cash Fund, for the records management of license application records. The Division of Registrations provides employees, licensees, and citizens with reliable, secure, and efficient records management for retaining, referencing, and retrieving documents.

Key Issues and Legislation:

- *Senate Bill 07-25*- Adds sexual orientation and religion to the list of protected classes for illegal employment discrimination, and permits persons subject to discriminatory or unfair employment practices to seek civil damages against an employer. Appropriated \$33,885 from the Controlled Maintenance Trust Fund to the Executive Director's Office for transfer to the Department of Law for legal services.
- *Senate Bill 07-249*- Requires the Division of Insurance to perform an annual market analysis of the title insurance industry in the State and investigate and enforce title insurance laws. Appropriated \$143,448 and 1.7 FTE to the Division of Insurance from the Division of Insurance Cash Fund for FY 2007-08.
- *House Bill 07-1322*- Expands the Mortgage Broker Registration Act by defining prohibited conduct regarding fraud, misrepresentation, and conflict of interest, and requires disclosures specific to fees, costs, and lock-in agreement terms. Appropriated \$495,084 and 2.5 FTE to the Department from the Mortgage Brokers Registration Cash Fund. Appropriated to the Department of Law \$118,598 cash funds exempt for legal services and \$264,608 cash funds exempt for consumer protection out of the appropriation to DORA. In addition, appropriated 4.0 FTE to the Department of Law.
- *House Bill 07-1331*- Creates the Michael Skolnik Medical Transparency Act, which requires licensed medical practitioners to submit information to the State Board of Medical Examiners, which will then make this information available to the public in a searchable manner. Appropriated \$163,118 from the Division of Registrations Cash Fund and 1.0 FTE for FY 2007-08. Of this amount, \$5,422 was transferred to the Department of Law for legal services.

Department Wide Performance Measures:

- Performance Measure #1- Amount of savings and return-on-investment achieved through regulation, settlement agreements, and rate review approval.
- Performance Measure #2- Percent of divisions meeting their measures to research, prepare, publish and distribute informational materials of importance to consumers about consumer rights.
- Performance Measure #3- Percent of divisions meeting their measures to meet with consumer and industry groups to obtain feedback on their issues and provide them with information about consumer rights and business and professional responsibilities.
- Performance Measure #4- Percent of division meeting their measures to timely process regulatory applications.
- Performance Measure #5- Percent of divisions meeting their measures to timely resolve complaints.

For more information about this Department and its programs, please call 303-866-2963.

Links to Additional Websites

Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies- <http://www.dora.state.co.us>