

Agency Purpose

The eight commissioners on Uniform State Laws participate, as Minnesota's members, in the activities of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL). The NCCUSL is a 112-year-old organization of approximately 350 members representing all 50 states. It drafts state legislation in the area of private law, focusing primarily on areas of significant legal complexity where uniformity of law among the states is particularly important. The commissioners serve without compensation.

Core Functions

The core functions of the Uniform Laws Commission are the drafting of uniform acts and codes and the presentation of these acts and codes to the state legislature for enactment. The Uniform Laws Commission serves the state legislature by helping it on questions of complex private law. The Uniform Laws Commission has provided Minnesota such important law as the Uniform Commercial Code, the Uniform Probate Code, the Uniform Anatomical Gifts Act, the Uniform Trade Secrets Act, the Uniform Partnership Act, the Uniform Limited Partnership Act, and the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act.

Operations

The conference work is done by committees of commissioners that meet in two-and-a-half-day weekend drafting meetings over a two to four year period. These committees are advised by interested groups, including consumer groups, industry groups, and the American Bar Association. Committee drafts are presented for consideration by the full Uniform Laws Commission at two annual meetings before the acts are promulgated as uniform acts and submitted to the fifty state legislatures for enactment. A significant part of the energy of conference leadership is expended evaluating subjects suggested as appropriate for drafting projects. Suggestions are received from many sources and are always welcomed. The conference has a small staff of nine in a Chicago office.

Key Measures

Conference success is measured by adoption of its acts by state legislatures and the extent to which the conference can relieve legislatures of work by creating a community consensus on its draft acts. Legislators are the conference's constituency. Every state has enacted dozens of uniform acts. Minnesota, among the leaders, has more than 52 uniform acts and codes in its statutes today. During the FY 2005-06 Minnesota legislative session, the Minnesota commissioners will likely bring to the legislature for consideration the following acts: Uniform Arbitration Act, Uniform Mediation Act, Uniform Parentage Act, Uniform Principal and Income Act, Uniform Correction of Defamation Act, Uniform Environmental Covenants Act, Uniform Commercial Code – Articles 2 and 2A, Uniform Limited Liability Company Act, Uniform Nonjudicial Foreclosure Act, Uniform Estate Tax Apportionment Act, and Uniform Securities Act.

Budget

The NCCUSL is supported by dues paid by each state from legislative appropriations. The Minnesota appropriation covers its dues and reimbursement of the food, lodging and travel expenses of the Minnesota commissioners for attendance at the weeklong annual meeting. Total funding for the FY 2002-03 biennium was \$89,000. Funding appropriated for the current biennium was reduced to \$77,000, consequently leaving dues in the amount of \$20,000 unpaid.

Contact

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Dollars in Thousands

	Current		Forecast Base		Biennium 2006-07
	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	
<u>Direct Appropriations by Fund</u>					
General					
Current Appropriation	38	39	39	39	78
Forecast Base	38	39	39	39	78
Change		0	0	0	0
% Biennial Change from 2004-05					1.3%
 <u>Expenditures by Fund</u>					
Direct Appropriations					
General	40	39	39	39	78
Total	40	39	39	39	78
 <u>Expenditures by Category</u>					
Other Operating Expenses	40	39	39	39	78
Total	40	39	39	39	78
 <u>Expenditures by Program</u>					
Uniform Laws Cmsn	40	39	39	39	78
Total	40	39	39	39	78