

## Agency Purpose

The eight commissioners on the Uniform Laws Commission participate, as Minnesota's members, in the activities of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL), now also known as the Uniform Laws Commission (ULC). The ULC is a 116-year-old organization of approximately 350 members representing all fifty 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 ULC are the drafting of uniform acts and codes and the presentation of these acts and codes to the state legislature for enactment. The ULC serves the state legislature by helping it on questions of complex private law. The ULC has provided Minnesota 64 currently effective laws, including such important laws as the Uniform Commercial Code, the Uniform Probate Code, the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act, the Uniform Environmental Covenants Act, the Uniform Partnership Act, the Uniform Fraudulent Transfers Act, the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act, and the Uniform Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Act.

## Operations

The ULC 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 ULC 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 ULC leadership is expended evaluating subjects suggested as appropriate for drafting projects. Suggestions are received from many sources and are always welcomed. The ULC has a small staff of nine in a Chicago office.

## Key Goals

The ULC seeks to help the Minnesota legislature, and all other legislatures, to address wisely issues of private law that are especially complex. The ULC marshals information and guidance from the nationwide community to a degree that no single legislature can manage. With its uncompensated membership, the work is done at a small cost to each state.

The drafting of each uniform act takes place over two or more years to ensure that the act, when finally promulgated, represents the best common sense and the best drafting that can be achieved. The Minnesota legislature, by making full use of the acts the ULC has drafted, can better serve our businesses and our families.

## Key Measures

ULC success is measured by adoption of its acts by state legislatures and the extent to which the ULC can relieve legislatures of work by creating a community consensus on its draft acts. Legislators are the ULC's constituency. Every state has enacted dozens of uniform acts. Minnesota, among the leaders, has more than 64 uniform acts and codes in its statutes today. During the 2009-10 Minnesota legislative session, the Minnesota commissioners will bring to the legislature for consideration a major probate law act and several other uniform acts.

## Budget

The ULC is supported by dues paid by each state from legislative appropriations. The Minnesota appropriation covers its dues and the reimbursement of food, lodging and travel expenses of the Minnesota commissioners for attendance at the weeklong annual meeting. Total funding for the FY 2008-09 biennium is \$110,000.

## At A Glance

Minnesota's eight commissioners on uniform state laws work with approximately 350 commissioners from the other 49 states in drafting uniform laws for the various state legislatures to consider and enact. The commissioners are uncompensated.

Currently Minnesota has 64 uniform laws in effect, and seven to nine will be presented to the legislature in 2009.

## Contact

Robert Tennesen  
Phone: (612) 669-9641

*Dollars in Thousands*

	Current		Forecast Base		Biennium 2010-11
	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	
<b><u>Direct Appropriations by Fund</u></b>					
<b>General</b>					
Current Appropriation	58	52	52	52	104
<b>Forecast Base</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>104</b>
Change		0	0	0	0
% Biennial Change from 2008-09					-5.5%
<b><u>Expenditures by Fund</u></b>					
<b>Direct Appropriations</b>					
General	55	55	52	52	104
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>104</b>
<b><u>Expenditures by Category</u></b>					
Other Operating Expenses	55	55	52	52	104
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>104</b>
<b><u>Expenditures by Program</u></b>					
Uniform Laws Cmsn	55	55	52	52	104
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>104</b>