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Uniform Laws Commission

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AT A GLANCE

- Twelve Commissioners, as members of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (ULC), volunteer their services to draft uniform acts for adoption by the states and promote their adoption in Minnesota.
- Minnesota introduced and considered six acts the past two years and has over 94 are currently in statute.
- Commissioners worked with legislators and stakeholders to secure adoption of uniform acts.

PURPOSE

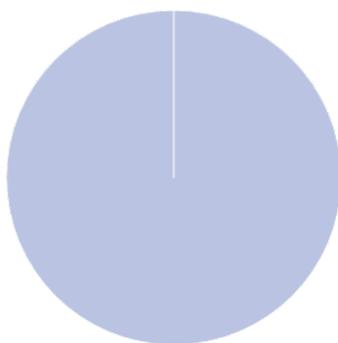
Twelve unpaid Minnesota Uniform Law Commissioners work with Commissioners from other states, the District of Columbia, U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico to prepare uniform acts that address complex and technical issues of commercial and other private law for introduction in their legislatures. Uniform acts establish the legal framework for economic growth, trade, and business development, criminal justice, and support the rule of law and federalism.

- Uniform acts enable states to carry out their responsibilities by providing rules and procedures that are consistent from state to state but that also reflect the diverse experience of the states, preserving the role of state law in our federal system.
- The ULC keeps state law up-to-date by addressing important and timely legal issues.
- Uniform acts promote efficiency by reducing the need for individuals and businesses to deal with different laws as they move and do business in different states.
- The ULC’s work facilitates economic development and provides a legal platform for U.S. citizens and businesses when dealing with foreign citizens and entities.

BUDGET

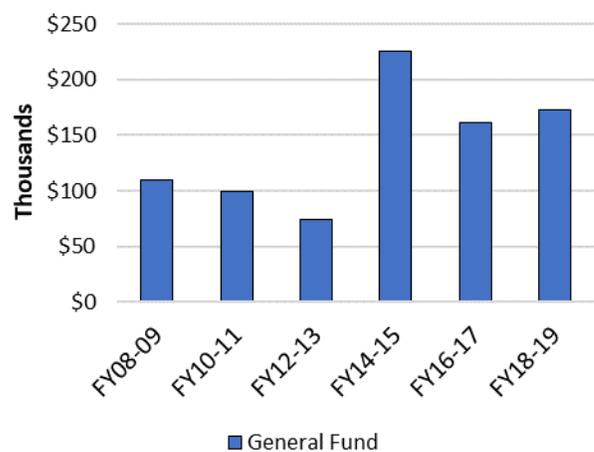
**Spending by Category
FY 2019 Actual**

Operating Expenses
100%



Source: Budget Planning & Analysis System (BPAS)

Historical Spending



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

The total FY 2019 budget of \$93,000 was provided by a general fund appropriation. Funding is used to pay dues to the National Commission and expenses incurred by Minnesota Commissioners attending the annual conference.

STRATEGIES

Minnesota Uniform Law Commissioners donate hundreds of hours of their time and legal and drafting expertise every year as a public service, and receive no salary or compensation for their work.

ULC’s deliberative and uniquely open drafting process draws on the expertise of commissioners, but also utilizes input from legal experts, and advisors and observers representing the views of other legal organizations or interests that will be subject to the proposed laws.

Drafting committees prepare acts for debate and approval at annual meetings. Each drafting committee meets two to three weekends per year, usually for two and one-half days. Drafting an act typically takes three years. Before an act is approved and promulgated, it is read line-by-line, scrutinized and debated by the entire Uniform Law Conference at two annual meetings.

Minnesota commissioners fulfill their statutory responsibilities by participating in the development, drafting, approval and promulgation of uniform acts. Commissioners do this by (1) serving on drafting committees that prepare acts, (2) participating in the mandatory annual meeting at which proposed acts are debated, amended and approved, (3) promoting adoption by the legislature, and (4) securing support from people and organizations interested in an act such as the Minnesota State Bar Association. Minnesota commissioners have been chosen leaders of the ULC serving as presidents, chairs of the Executive, Scope and Program, and Legislative committees, chairs of drafting committees and continue to serve on study and drafting committees. Commissioners develop a legislative agenda for each legislative session.

RESULTS

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Result	Acts adopted by the legislature 1892-2018. Over 155 uniform acts have been adopted since 1892. Over 94 are currently in effect.	N/A	155	Before 2019
Result	Minnesota Commissioners secured introduction of the following Uniform Acts in 2019-2020 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act. 2. Uniform Recognition of Substitute Decision Making Act. 3. Uniform Recognition of Canadian Money Judgments Act. 4. Uniform Criminal Records Accuracy Act. 5. Uniform Correction or Clarification of Defamation Act. 6. Uniform Recognition and Enforcement of Canadian Domestic-Violence Protection Orders Act. 	2	6	2019-2020

M.S. 3.251-.253 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=3.251>) provides the legal authority for the Uniform Laws Commission.

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY18	Actual FY19	Actual FY20	Estimate FY21	Forecast Base FY22 FY23		Governor's Recommendation FY22 FY23	
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Expenditures by Fund

1000 - General	91	82	98	98	98	98	100	100
Total	91	82	98	98	98	98	100	100
Biennial Change				23		0		4
Biennial % Change				13		0		2
Governor's Change from Base								4
Governor's % Change from Base								2

Expenditures by Program

Uniform Laws Cmsn	91	82	98	98	98	98	100	100
Total	91	82	98	98	98	98	100	100

Expenditures by Category

Operating Expenses	91	82	98	98	98	98	100	100
Total	91	82	98	98	98	98	100	100

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY18	Actual FY19	Actual FY20	Estimate FY21	Forecast Base FY22 FY23		Governor's Recommendation FY22 FY23	
1000 - General								
Balance Forward In		2						
Direct Appropriation	93	93	98	98	98	98	100	100
Cancellations		13						
Balance Forward Out	2		0					
Expenditures	91	82	98	98	98	98	100	100
Biennial Change in Expenditures				23		0		4
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				13		0		2
Governor's Change from Base								4
Governor's % Change from Base								2

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY21	FY22	FY23	Biennium 2022-23
Direct				
Fund: 1000 - General				
FY2021 Appropriations	98	98	98	196
Forecast Base	98	98	98	196
Change Items				
Increased Conference and Travel Costs		2	2	4
Total Governor's Recommendations	98	100	100	200

Uniform Laws Commission

FY 2022-23 Biennial Budget Change Item

Change Item Title: Increased Conference and Travel Costs

Fiscal Impact (\$000s)	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
General Fund				
Expenditures	2	2	2	2
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Other Funds				
Expenditures	0	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Net Fiscal Impact = (Expenditures – Revenues)	2	2	2	2
FTEs	0	0	0	0

Recommendation:

The Governor requests \$2,000 in FY 2022 and \$2,000 in FY 2023 to cover anticipated cost increases. The change includes expected increases in commissioner travel costs to attend the FY 2022 and FY 2023 annual meetings. This represents a 2% increase in the budget for the Minnesota Commission members.

Rationale/Background:

The work of the Uniform Laws Commission (ULC) assists the states in performing their responsibilities in our federal system of government. It drafts well developed, functional, effective, and uniform acts to address problems with national and international implications. ULC acts integrate important changes in complex legislation governing commerce, entities such as corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies and others, enforcement of judgments, and child support acts that are required for states to receive federal funds.

By adopting ULC acts, states establish uniform standards that national and international organizations and businesses need to operate efficiently. The uniform acts are carefully drafted over two or more years with the participation of all stakeholders. In the absence of uniform state standards these organizations and businesses do seek federal legislation to establish a single standard, preempting the role of states in our federal system.

Commissioners volunteer their time and receive no compensation. They serve hundreds of hours on study, drafting, and other conference committees, and in seeking adoption by the legislature. Since Minnesota became a member of the Conference it has adopted 155 uniform acts.

Proposal:

This is not a new initiative or change to an existing program. Commissioners' duties and responsibilities remain the same each year and no additional staff is needed. Travel expenses are based upon the contracted hotel rates and the estimated air fares based upon current ticket prices, when available, to the conference cities. The annual meetings will be held in Madison in FY 2022 and Philadelphia in 2023. Total travel and conference costs are expected to increase \$2,000/yr. over currently budgeted levels. Current annual dues of \$63,600 are not expected to increase.

Commissioners will continue, as they have done, to present 4-6 uniform acts each session to the legislature for its consideration and adoption. Commissioners work extensively with the legislature to obtain authors, hearings, and passage of acts.

Commissioners have a statutory obligation and duty to participate in the annual meeting. The funds are necessary to support this obligation. Unless commissioners volunteer their time, participating in drafting committees and the annual meeting, the work of the ULC cannot be performed and problems will not be addressed. Commissioners serving on a drafting committee typically have spent 2-4 weekends per year in a conference room drafting an act. The typical drafting committee meeting begins early Friday morning and runs through Sunday noon.

The ULC drafts acts that address significant state, national and increasingly international problems. To the extent that the legislature adopts them the rationale for federal legislation is undercut and Minnesota continues to have the benefit of this significant resource of uniform acts that effectively addresses evolving state problems.

The ULC promulgates new acts at its annual meeting each year and proposes them to the states for adoption. Each year commissioners bring to the legislature the uniform acts and seek adoption. This occurs during the legislative session. At the same time the ULC continues to study new issues and to make decisions to create committees to address these developing issues.

Results:

This proposal is intended to allow the Uniform Laws Commission to continue to provide current levels of service and information to the public.