

Uniform Law Commission – FY 2026-2027 Budget Request

Information for Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee

February 12, 2025

What is the Uniform Law Commission?

- 125-year-old plus non-profit, non-partisan organization – founded in 1892
- Drafts uniform state laws on subjects where uniformity is desirable and practical
- ULC promotes federalism – helps preserve role of the states
- Commissioners are all attorneys at the time of appointment from the 50 states, plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands
- ULC is funded primarily by state dues appropriated by state legislatures
- Commissioners serve without compensation for their time

What is the ULC Drafting Process?

- Typically takes two or three years to draft a uniform act
- Drafting committees comprised of commissioners, plus a reporter to perform drafting, with a liaison from the American Bar Association, and observers from relevant industry, practice interest groups
- Annual meeting is like a legislative session – proposed uniform acts are amended by committee of the whole and approved by vote of the states
- Commissioners must attend annual meeting unless excused by ULC

What are recent examples of Uniform Acts enacted in Minnesota?

- Uniform Commercial Code, 2022 Amendments – 2024
- Uniform Protection of Public Expression Act - 2024
- Uniform Electronic Wills Act – 2023

How Many Uniform Acts Has Minnesota Enacted?

- Minnesota is a national leader
- Enacted 157 uniform or model acts since 1892; nearly 100 still in effect
- Top 10% of states for enactments

How Are Minnesota Uniform Law Commissioners Determined? Under Minnesota Statutes 3.251, Uniform Law Commissioners consist of:

- Three persons appointed by the Governor, Attorney General, and the Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court;
- The Revisor of Statutes; and

- Any persons who have been appointed for 20 years or more, who become Life Members of the Uniform Law Commission.

Current Commissioners from Minnesota

- With Life members, Minnesota currently has 11 commissioners for whom to budget.
- Three (3) Minnesota Commissioners have served as President of the ULC, including Robert A. Stein, Harriet Lansing and Michael Sullivan Sr., the former CEO of Dairy Queen and managing partner of Gray Plant Mooty who passed away in November of 2024.
- Currently, Commissioners Hortman, Timmons and Lowe serve on the Parliamentary Practice Committee and the Legislative Committee; Lowe serves on the Style Committee; Timmons chairs the Legislative Attorneys Committee; and Hortman served on the executive committee.
- MN Commissioners serve on and chair numerous study and drafting committees, bringing a Minnesota perspective to these projects.

What is the FY 2026-2027 Budget Request?

- Same level as FY 2024-2025 budget
- \$115,000 per year, or \$ 230,000 per biennium
- Request is at the Governor's recommendation
- Allows continuing level of service by volunteer Uniform Law Commissioners

What is the Budget Detail?

- Two cost centers:
 - 1) Annual dues and
 - 2) Travel costs for annual meeting
- Dues will be \$ 73,620 in the first year, \$ 77,300 in the second year
- Remainder of appropriation reimburses commissioners for travel costs for annual meeting, according to state reimbursement policies
- Inflation continues to occur in travel costs, but we are starting to see a decrease in the number of Life Members able to travel

Net result is the ability to deliver volunteer expert services with same level budget.

Questions?

Feel free to contact Commissioner Michele Timmons at pmtimmons@msn.com or Commissioner Kim Lowe at klowe@avisenlegal.com