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**AT A GLANCE**

- Eleven 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 adopted two uniform acts in the past two years and has over 85 currently in statute.
- Commissioners worked with legislators and stakeholders to secure adoption of uniform acts.

**PURPOSE**

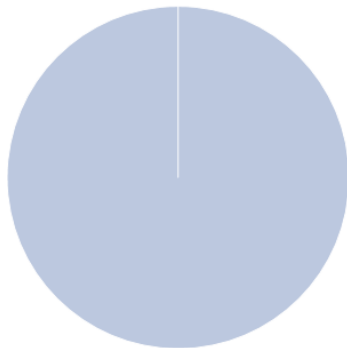
Eleven unpaid Minnesota Uniform Law Commissioners work with Commissioners from other states, the District of Columbia, U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico to prepare uniform acts that address complex and technical issues of commercial and other private law for introduction in their legislatures. Uniform 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.
- Uniform acts provide the legal framework to support stable families and communities.
- 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**

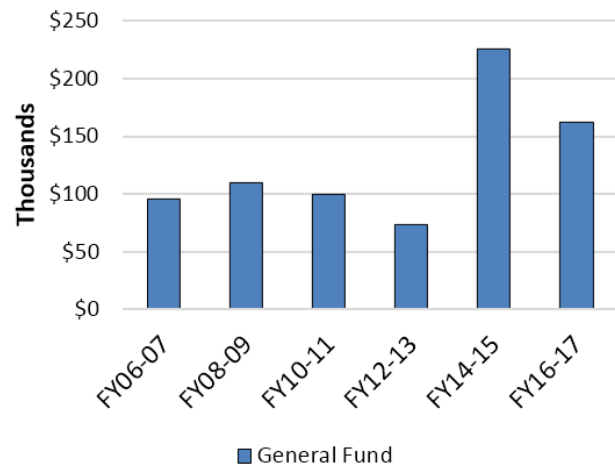
**Spending by Category  
FY 17 Actual**

Operating Expenses  
100%



Source: Budget Planning & Analysis System (BPAS)

**Historical Spending**



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

The total FY 2017 budget of \$84,000 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	<b>Acts adopted by the legislature 1892-2016.</b> Over 155 uniform acts have been adopted since 1892. Over 94 are currently in effect.	N/A	155	Before 2017
Result	<b>Minnesota Commissioners secured adoption of the following Uniform Acts in 2017 and 2018:</b> 1. Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts. 2. Revised Uniform Athlete Agents Act	9	2	2015-2016 2017-2018

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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 FY16	Actual FY17	Actual FY18	Estimate FY19	Forecast Base FY20 FY21		Governor's Recommendation FY20 FY21	
<b><u>Expenditures by Fund</u></b>								
1000 - General	77	84	91	95	93	93	98	98
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>98</b>
Biennial Change				24		0		10
Biennial % Change				15		0		6
Governor's Change from Base								10
Governor's % Change from Base								5
<b><u>Expenditures by Program</u></b>								
Uniform Laws Cmsn	77	84	91	95	93	93	98	98
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>98</b>
<b><u>Expenditures by Category</u></b>								
Operating Expenses	77	84	91	95	93	93	98	98
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>98</b>

Uniform Laws Commission

Agency Financing by Fund

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY16	Actual FY17	Actual FY18	Estimate FY19	Forecast Base FY20 FY21		Governor's Recommendation FY20 FY21	
<b>1000 - General</b>								
Balance Forward In		11		2				
Direct Appropriation	88	93	93	93	93	93	98	98
Cancellations		19						
Balance Forward Out	11		2					
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>98</b>
Biennial Change in Expenditures				24		0		10
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				15		0		6
Governor's Change from Base								10
Governor's % Change from Base								5

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY19	FY20	FY21	Biennium 2020-21
<b>Direct</b>				
<b>Fund: 1000 - General</b>				
FY2019 Appropriations	93	93	93	186
Forecast Base	93	93	93	186
<b>Change Items</b>				
Operating Adjustment		5	5	10
<b>Total Governor's Recommendations</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>196</b>

# Uniform Laws Commission

## FY 2020-21 Biennial Budget Change Item

### Change Item Title: Operating Adjustment

Fiscal Impact (\$000s)	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
General Fund				
Expenditures	5	5	5	5
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Other Funds				
Expenditures	0	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Net Fiscal Impact = (Expenditures – Revenues)	5	5	5	5
<b>FTEs</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### Recommendation:

The Governor recommends additional funding of \$10,000 in the FY 2020-2021 biennium to maintain the current level of service delivery at the Uniform Laws Commission. The changes include an expected increase in Minnesota dues to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (ULC) and expected increases in commissioner travel costs to attend the FY 2020 and FY 2021 annual meetings

### Rationale/Background:

The work of the 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 157 uniform acts.

### Proposal:

The Governor recommends increasing agency operating budgets to maintain the delivery of current services.

Commissioners' duties and responsibilities remain the same each year. This is not a new initiative or change to an existing program. No additional staff is needed. Current annual dues of \$60,600 are expected to increase 1% each year. Travel expenses are based upon the contracted hotel rates and the estimated air fares based upon current ticket prices to the conference cities. Air fares vary considerably by city and are expected to increase. The annual meetings will be held in Anchorage in 2020 and Madison in 2021. Annual meeting registration costs are expected to remain the same at \$600 per commissioner.

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 will spend 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:**

Results are measured by the number of acts passed and how well the acts work. Minnesota has adopted over 157 uniform acts since 1892 and over 80 are currently in force. In calendar years 2017 and 2018 two acts were signed into law.