

Table of Contents
Uniform Laws Commission

Agency Profile 1

Agency Expenditure Overview 3

Agency Financing by Fund 4

Agency Change Summary 5

Change Item(s) 6

Maintain Current Service Levels 6

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 enacted two acts the past two years and has over 96 that are currently in statute.
- Commissioners worked with legislators and stakeholders to secure adoption of uniform acts.

PURPOSE

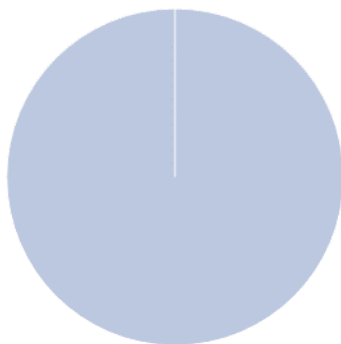
Twelve Minnesota Uniform Law Commissioners work with Commissioners from other states, the District of Columbia, U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico to prepare uniform acts that address complex and technical issues of commercial and other private law for introduction in their legislatures. Uniform acts 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

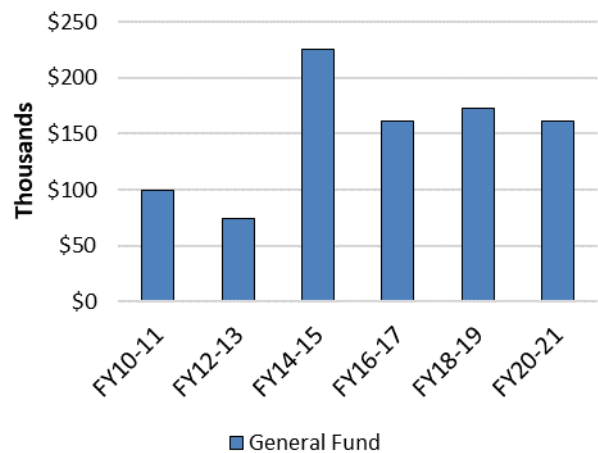
**Spending by Category
FY 2021 Actual**

Operating Expenses
100%



Source: Budget Planning & Analysis System (BPAS)

Historical Spending



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

The total fiscal year (FY) 2021 budget of \$98,000 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 two 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 and members of them, chairs of drafting and study committees, and members of drafting and study committees. Commissioners also serve as liaison and attend annual meetings of the National Association of Secretaries of State and the American Bar Association. 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 1892-2022. Over 157 uniform acts have been adopted since 1892. Over 96 are currently in effect.	N/A	157	Before 2022
Result	Minnesota Commissioners secured introduction and enactment of the following Uniform Acts in 2021-2022 1. Uniform Recognition of Canadian Money Judgments Act. 2. Uniform Recognition and Enforcement of Canadian Domestic-Violence Protection Orders Act.	6	2	2021-2022

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 FY20	Actual FY21	Actual FY22	Estimate FY23	Forecast Base FY24 FY25		Governor's Recommendation FY24 FY25	
<u>Expenditures by Fund</u>								
1000 - General	98	64	80	120	100	100	115	115
Total	98	64	80	120	100	100	115	115
Biennial Change				38		0		30
Biennial % Change				24		0		15
Governor's Change from Base								30
Governor's % Change from Base								15
<u>Expenditures by Program</u>								
Uniform Laws Cmsn	98	64	80	120	100	100	115	115
Total	98	64	80	120	100	100	115	115
<u>Expenditures by Category</u>								
Operating Expenses	98	64	80	120	100	100	115	115
Total	98	64	80	120	100	100	115	115

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY20	Actual FY21	Actual FY22	Estimate FY23	Forecast Base FY24 FY25		Governor's Recommendation FY24 FY25	
1000 - General								
Balance Forward In		0		20				
Direct Appropriation	98	98	100	100	100	100	115	115
Cancellations		34						
Balance Forward Out	0		20					
Expenditures	98	64	80	120	100	100	115	115
Biennial Change in Expenditures				38		0		30
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				24		0		15
Governor's Change from Base								30
Governor's % Change from Base								15

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	Biennium 2024-25
Direct				
Fund: 1000 - General				
FY2023 Appropriations	100	100	100	200
Forecast Base	100	100	100	200
Change Items				
Maintain Current Service Levels		15	15	30
Total Governor's Recommendations	100	115	115	230

Uniform Laws Commission

FY 2024-25 Biennial Budget Change Item

Change Item Title: Maintain Current Service Levels

Fiscal Impact (\$000s)	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
General Fund				
Expenditures	15	15	15	15
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Other Funds				
Expenditures	0	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Net Fiscal Impact = (Expenditures – Revenues)	15	15	15	15
FTEs	0	0	0	0

Recommendation:

The Governor recommends additional funding of \$15,000 in FY 2024 and \$15,000 in each subsequent year from the general fund to maintain the current level of service delivery at the Uniform Laws Commission.

Rationale/Background:

Each year, the cost of doing business rises—employer-paid health care contributions, FICA and Medicare, along with other salary and compensation-related costs increase. Other operating costs, like travel reimbursement, annual dues, rent and lease, fuel and utilities, and IT and legal services also grow. This cost growth puts pressure on agency operating budgets that remain flat from year to year.

Agencies face challenging decisions to manage these costs within existing budgets, while maintaining the services Minnesotans expect. From year to year, agencies find ways to become more efficient with existing resources. For the Uniform Laws Commission, the following efficiencies have been implemented to help offset rising operating costs:

- Operating without any formal full-time staff.
- Sending varying numbers of commissioners to the annual conference of the national Uniform Laws Commission conference every year.

However, cost growth typically outstrips efficiencies, and without additional resources added to agency budgets, service delivery erodes.

For the Uniform Laws Commission, operating cost pressures exist in multiple categories— increased travel costs to attend the national organization’s annual conference and the increased cost of annual dues to the national organization. If an operational increase is not provided, the services the Uniform Laws Commission delivers to Minnesotans will be impacted. An example of a potential impact includes:

- Reducing the number of commissioners who attend the national organization’s annual conference.

Proposal:

The Governor recommends increasing agency operating budgets to support maintaining the delivery of current services. For the Uniform Laws Commission, this funding will cover the rising cost of annual dues to the national organization and the rising cost of travel for commissioners to attend the national organization’s annual conference each year.

Results:

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