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**Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals**

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<https://www.mn.gov/workcomp/>

**AT A GLANCE**

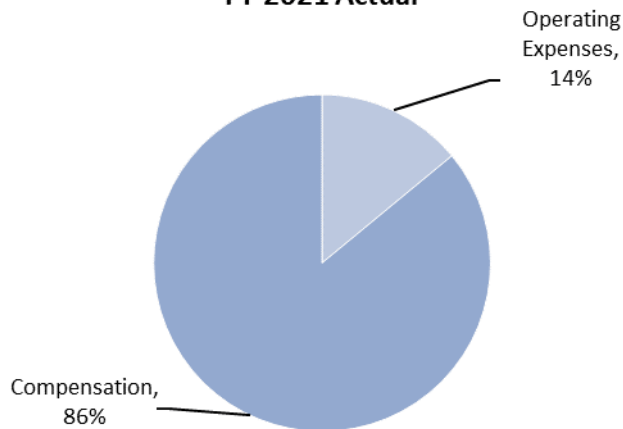
- Five appellate judges, who sit as panels of three or five.
- Budget 100% funded by the Workers Compensation Fund.
- We review workers' compensation appeals from the Office of Administrative Hearings, the Department of Labor & Industry and union workers' compensation arbitration.
- We also decide petitions to reopen workers' compensation settlements and awards of benefits.
- Our website provides information, rules, and a searchable archive of workers' compensation appellate decisions.
- Appeals from our decisions proceed directly to the Minnesota Supreme Court.

**PURPOSE**

The Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals' mission is to provide accessible, fair, and timely review of disputed workers' compensation issues which affect entitlement to and delivery of workers' compensation wage loss and medical benefits.

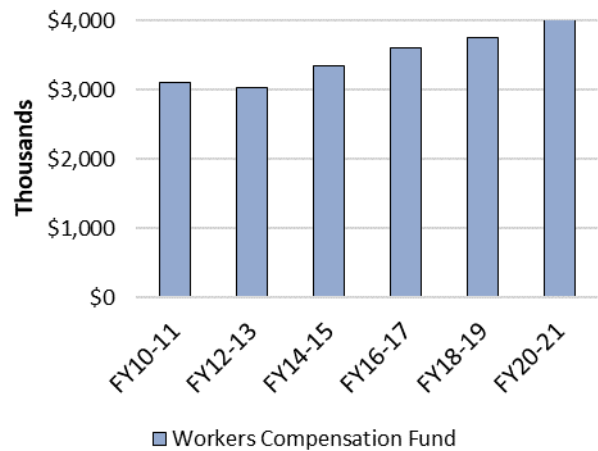
**BUDGET**

**Spending by Category  
FY 2021 Actual**



Source: Budget Planning & Analysis System (BPAS)

**Historical Spending**



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

**STRATEGIES**

We provide accessible, fair, and timely review of disputes before us by:

- Promptly reviewing the evidentiary record created by the initial decision making body;
- Integrating our case management, calendaring, and document filing system with the DLI Campus system;
- Coordinating disparate technologies across the workers' compensation system;
- Presiding over oral arguments;
- Conducting necessary legal research;
- Deciding the issues;
- Issuing appropriate written orders, decisions, and memoranda; and
- Promptly preparing the record for review in cases appealed to the Minnesota Supreme Court.

## RESULTS

We decide the disputes before us promptly and fairly, which:

- Ensures the timely and efficient delivery of benefits to injured workers at a reasonable cost to employers;
- Maintains economic stability for injured workers and their families;
- Provides for appropriate medical treatment of work-related illnesses and injuries;
- Supports a competitive business climate for Minnesota employers by reducing the amount of litigation; and
- Supports employers in creating safe and healthy work environments.

Our written decisions inform the parties and the public of the basis for the court's decisions and create a consistent body of law interpreting and applying the Minnesota Workers' Compensation Act. Our decisions are currently provided to the public at: <https://mn.gov/workcomp/decisions/>, distributed to the agency listserv, and available through legal databases such as Westlaw.

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Quantity	Cases processed by the WCCA	70	66	FY 2020: FY 2021
Quality	Average number of days between case assignment and issuance of decision	68*	37*	FY 2020: FY 2021
Results	Percent of WCCA decisions reversed by Supreme Court	3%	6%	FY 2020: FY 2021

\*An order staying all proceedings was issued during COVID. The time under the stay for each proceeding is not included in this profile.

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The legal authority for the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals is provided by Minn. Stat. Chapters 175A and 176 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=175A>; <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=176>).

# Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals

# Agency Expenditure Overview

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Forecast Base		Governor's Recommendation	
	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY24	FY25
<b><u>Expenditures by Fund</u></b>								
2830 - Workers Compensation	2,047	2,085	2,218	2,348	2,283	2,283	2,583	2,563
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,047</b>	<b>2,085</b>	<b>2,218</b>	<b>2,348</b>	<b>2,283</b>	<b>2,283</b>	<b>2,583</b>	<b>2,563</b>
Biennial Change				434		0		580
Biennial % Change				11		0		13
Governor's Change from Base								580
Governor's % Change from Base								13

## **Expenditures by Program**

Workers Compensation Court of Appeals	2,047	2,085	2,218	2,348	2,283	2,283	2,583	2,563
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,047</b>	<b>2,085</b>	<b>2,218</b>	<b>2,348</b>	<b>2,283</b>	<b>2,283</b>	<b>2,583</b>	<b>2,563</b>

## **Expenditures by Category**

Compensation	1,794	1,813	1,957	1,954	1,954	1,970	2,144	2,190
Operating Expenses	248	272	261	392	327	311	437	371
Other Financial Transaction	5		0	2	2	2	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,047</b>	<b>2,085</b>	<b>2,218</b>	<b>2,348</b>	<b>2,283</b>	<b>2,283</b>	<b>2,583</b>	<b>2,563</b>

## **Full-Time Equivalent**

	11.42	11.19	12.57	12.25	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
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# Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals

# Agency Financing by Fund

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY20	Actual FY21	Actual FY22	Estimate FY23	Forecast Base FY24 FY25		Governor's Recommendation FY24 FY25	
<b>2830 - Workers Compensation</b>								
Balance Forward In		176		65				
Direct Appropriation	2,222	2,283	2,283	2,283	2,283	2,283	2,583	2,563
Cancellations		373						
Balance Forward Out	175		65					
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>2,047</b>	<b>2,085</b>	<b>2,218</b>	<b>2,348</b>	<b>2,283</b>	<b>2,283</b>	<b>2,583</b>	<b>2,563</b>
Biennial Change in Expenditures				434		0		580
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				11		0		13
Governor's Change from Base								580
Governor's % Change from Base								13
Full-Time Equivalents	11.42	11.19	12.57	12.25	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00

**Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals**

**Agency Change Summary**

*(Dollars in Thousands)*

	FY23	FY24	FY25	Biennium 2024-25
<b>Direct</b>				
<b>Fund: 2830 - Workers Compensation</b>				
<b>FY2023 Appropriations</b>	<b>2,283</b>	<b>2,283</b>	<b>2,283</b>	<b>4,566</b>
<b>Forecast Base</b>	<b>2,283</b>	<b>2,283</b>	<b>2,283</b>	<b>4,566</b>
<b>Change Items</b>				
Maintain Current Service Levels		200	280	480
Rulemaking		100		100
<b>Total Governor's Recommendations</b>	<b>2,283</b>	<b>2,583</b>	<b>2,563</b>	<b>5,146</b>

# Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals

## 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	0	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Other Funds				
Expenditures	200	280	280	280
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Net Fiscal Impact = (Expenditures – Revenues)	200	280	280	280
<b>FTEs</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

### Recommendation:

The Governor recommends additional funding of \$200,000 in FY 2024 and \$280,000 in each subsequent year from the Workers Compensation Fund to maintain the current level of service delivery at the Workers Compensation Court of Appeals (WCCA).

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

For WCCA, operating cost pressures exist in multiple categories—increases in compensation and insurance costs at the agency, increasing costs to maintain our current staff compliment in a challenging labor market, and increasing IT costs. If an operational increase is not provided, the services WCCA delivers to Minnesotans will be impacted.

### Proposal:

The Governor recommends increasing agency operating budgets to support maintaining the delivery of current services. For WCCA, this funding will cover expected and anticipated employee compensation growth.

### Results:

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

# Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals

## FY 2024-25 Biennial Budget Change Item

### Change Item Title: Rulemaking

Fiscal Impact (\$000s)	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
General Fund				
Expenditures	0	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Other Funds				
Expenditures	100	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Net Fiscal Impact = (Expenditures – Revenues)	100	0	0	0
<b>FTEs</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### Recommendation:

The Governor recommends additional one-time funding of \$100,000 in FY 2024 from the Workers Compensation Fund for the Workers Compensation Court of Appeals (WCCA). The Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) launched the Claims Access and Management Platform User System (CAMPUS) to replace its existing IT infrastructure. As records handled and developed by WCCA are maintained by DLI, WCCA has been involved in the planning and implementation of the project. As the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) maintains a separate IT infrastructure (C-Track), the WCCA was required to integrate its operations with C-Track, as well as comply with the statutory requirement to use CAMPUS. The launch of CAMPUS includes an online filing function allowing litigants to file and serve documents electronically. WCCA's procedural rules require modifications to permit electronic filing. There is currently no budget approval for the cost of rulemaking through the OAH. WCCA was authorized to adopt rules through the expedited process in recent legislation. WCCA has begun outreach for comment by interested parties and has established a dedicated email address for receipt of comments. The court will continue outreach for comment and proceed with the rulemaking upon receipt of funding for this action and elimination of the budget shortfall.

### Rationale/Background:

WCCA consists of five judges appointed by the Governor, five attorneys and two office and administrative specialists. It is an independent agency of the executive branch of the state government established by Minn. Stat. Ch. 175A. The WCCA has exclusive, statewide authority to review workers' compensation cases decided by compensation judges at OAH and certain cases decided by the Workers' Compensation Division at DLI. A panel of three or five judges decides each appeal. The judges review the evidentiary record created at the initial hearing, preside over oral arguments, conduct legal research, decide the legal and factual issues appealed by the parties, and issue written orders, decisions, and memoranda. Decisions are written to inform the parties and the public of the bases for the court's decisions and to create a body of law interpreting and applying Minnesota workers' compensation laws. Decisions of the WCCA are appealable directly to the Minnesota Supreme Court. The mission of the WCCA is to produce high quality and consistent decisions in a timely manner to ensure the quick and efficient delivery of workers' compensation benefits to qualified injured workers at a reasonable cost to employers.

### Proposal:

The Governor recommends a budget increase in the form of a one-time appropriation of \$100,000 for rulemaking.