

0205



STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

November 6, 2002

102 STATE CAPITOL
ST. PAUL, MN 55155-1002
TELEPHONE: (651) 296-6196

MIKE HATCH
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Senator Doug Johnson, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
205 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Dave Bishop, Chair
Ways and Means Committee
453 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55144

RECEIVED

JAN 30 2003

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE LIBRARY
STATE OFFICE BUILDING
ST. PAUL, MN 55155

Re: STATUS OF PARTNER AGREEMENTS WITH AGENCIES

Dear Senator Johnson and Representative Bishop:

Since 1996 the Attorney General's Office has negotiated "partner" agreements with various state agencies. The agencies that have these agreements determine each fiscal year how many hours of legal services they project will be needed and transfer payments for these services, as they are performed, to the Attorney General's budget.

For a number of years there has been discussion about whether these agreements allow the Attorney General's Office enough flexibility to represent both partner and all other state agencies as well as to carry out the other duties the Office has to the citizens of Minnesota.

Minn. Laws 2002 ch. 200, § required our Office to report on the ongoing status of partner agreements by November 15, 2002. After lengthy discussion with section deputies who work closely with the various partner agencies, the Office has determined that the current partner process should continue.

If you wish to discuss this issue further, please contact me.

Sincerely yours,

MIKE HATCH
Attorney General
(651) 296-6196

cc. Sen. Cohen
Rep. Krinkie

2002 Minn. Laws Chap. 220
Art. 10 Sec. 7