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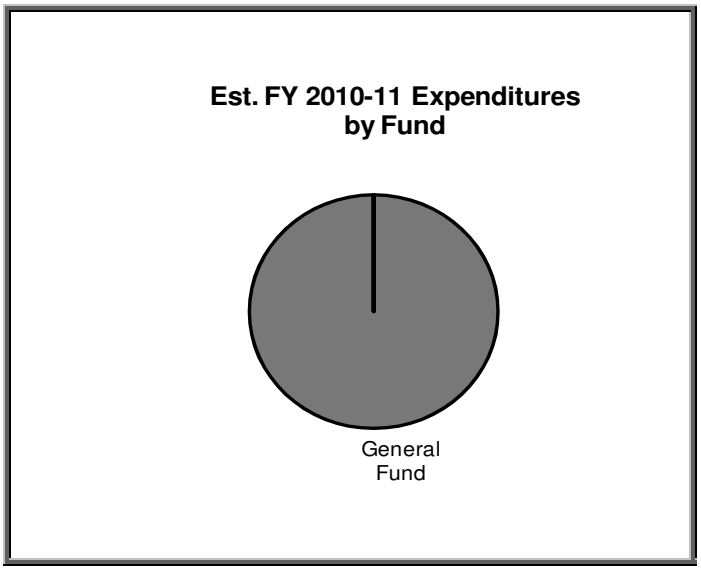
Agency Purpose

The eight Minnesota commissioners on Uniform Laws participate, as Minnesota's members, in the activities of the Nation Conference of Commissioner on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL), now known as the Uniform Laws Commission (ULC). The ULC is a 118-year old organization of approximately 350 members representing all fifty states. It drafts state legislation in the area of private law, focusing primarily on areas of significant legal complexity where uniformity of law among the states is particularly important. The commissioners serve without compensation.

At a Glance

Minnesota's eight commissioners on uniform state laws work with approximately 350 commissioners from the other 49 states drafting uniform laws for the various state legislatures to consider and enact. The commissioners are uncompensated.

Currently Minnesota has more than 70 uniform laws in effect and seven to nine will be presented to the legislature in 2011-12.



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement.

Strategies

The strategies used by the ULC are the drafting of uniform acts and codes and the presentation of these acts and codes to the state legislature for enactment. The ULC serves the state legislature by helping it on questions of complex private law. The ULC has provided Minnesota more than 70 currently effective laws, including such important laws as the Uniform Commercial Code, the Uniform Probate Code, the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act, the Uniform Environmental Covenants Act, the Uniform Partnership Act, the Uniform Fraudulent Transfers Act, the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act, and the Uniform Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Act.

Operations

The ULC work is done by committees of commissioners that meet in two-and-a-half-day weekend drafting meetings over a two to four week period. These committees are advised by interested groups, including consumer groups, industry groups, and the American Bar Association. Committee drafts are presented for consideration by the full ULC at two annual meetings before the acts are promulgated as uniform acts and submitted to the fifty state legislatures for enactment. A significant part of the energy of the ULC leadership is expended evaluating subjects suggested as appropriate for drafting projects. Suggestions are received from many sources and are always welcomed. The ULC has a small staff of nine in a Chicago Office.

Key Goals & Measures

The ULC seeks to help the Minnesota legislature, and all other legislatures, to address wisely issues with private law that are especially complex or technical. The ULC marshals information and guidance from the nationwide community to a degree that no single legislature can manage. With its uncompensated membership, the work is done at a small cost to each state.

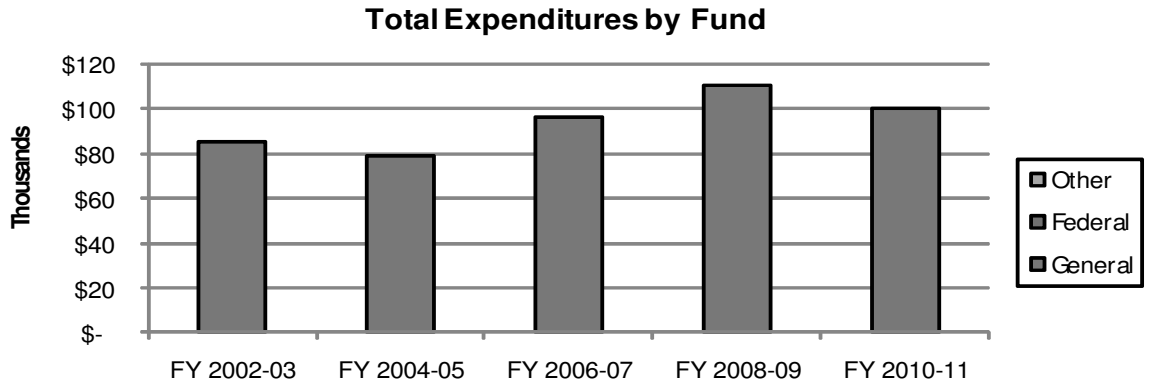
The drafting of each uniform act takes place over two or more years to ensure that the act, when finally promulgated, represents the best common sense and the best drafting that can be achieved. The Minnesota legislature, by making full use of the acts the ULC has drafted, can better serve our businesses and our families.

ULC success is measured by adoption of its acts by state legislatures and the extent to which the ULC can relieve legislatures of work by creating a community consensus on its draft acts. Legislators are the ULC's constituency. Every state has enacted dozens of uniform acts. Minnesota, among the leaders, has more than 70 uniform acts and codes in its statutes today.

The Minnesota legislature in 2010 enacted three uniform acts: the Uniform Arbitration Act, the Uniform Foreign-Country Money Judgments Recognition Act, and the Uniform Unsworn Foreign Declarations Act. Having three acts enacted is quite typical.

During the next two years the following acts are among those that might be brought to the legislature by the Minnesota commissioners: Amendments to Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code, Military and Overseas Voters Act, Collateral Consequences of Convictions Act, Unincorporated Nonprofit Associations Act, Child Abduction Prevention Act, Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts, Faithful Presidential Electors Act, and Child Witness Testimony Act. The following probate acts will be presented: Estate Tax Apportionment, Power of Attorney, Multiple Person Accounts, and amendments to the Intestacy article of the Uniform Probate Code.

Budget Trends



** FY 2010-11 is estimated, not actual. Source data for the previous chart is the Minnesota Accounting and Procurement System (MAPS) as of 08/31/10.*

The ULC is supported by dues paid by each state from legislative appropriations. The Minnesota appropriation covers its dues and the reimbursement of food, lodging and travel expenses of the Minnesota commissioners for attendance at the weeklong annual meeting. Total funding for the FY 2010-11 biennium is estimated to be $100,000.

Contact

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Dollars in Thousands

	Current		Governor Recomm.		Biennium
	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	2012-13
Direct Appropriations by Fund					
General					
Current Appropriation	51	49	49	49	98
Recommended	**51**	**49**	**49**	**49**	**98**
Change		0	0	0	0
% Biennial Change from 2010-11					-2%
Expenditures by Fund					
Direct Appropriations					
General	51	49	49	49	98
Total	**51**	**49**	**49**	**49**	**98**
Expenditures by Category					
Other Operating Expenses	51	49	49	49	98
Total	**51**	**49**	**49**	**49**	**98**
Expenditures by Program					
Uniform Laws Cmsn	51	49	49	49	98
Total	**51**	**49**	**49**	**49**	**98**