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<http://mn.gov/oah/>

AT A GLANCE

- 864 new cases filed; 452 hearings held in cases involving challenges to actions taken by 74 units of government (FY 2014).
- 13,005 new cases filed and 482 hearings held in workers compensation cases (FY 2014).
- Utilized interpreter services in 72 different languages to assure public access in hearing processes.
- Conducted 49 administrative rulemaking cases for 21 state agencies (FY 2014).
- Issued orders for 104 municipal boundary adjustments affecting 17,242 acres in 52 counties (FY 2014).
- With 32 judges and 33 administrative staff, ensured that individual rights were protected and due process provided in all proceedings heard in the agency.

PURPOSE

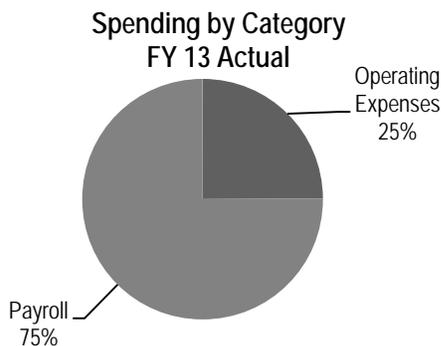
The Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) administers justice as an independent tribunal within the executive branch. We provide fair and impartial hearings for individuals and residents challenging actions taken by state and local government agencies, and for injured workers and employers in contested workers compensation matters. In addition, OAH conducts rulemaking hearings for state agencies and boundary adjustment proceedings throughout the state, all as a means of guaranteeing the public's access to and participation in their governments' processes.

Because OAH provides due process hearings for Minnesotans challenging state agency actions as specified below, OAH serves a vital role in contributing to the following statewide outcomes:

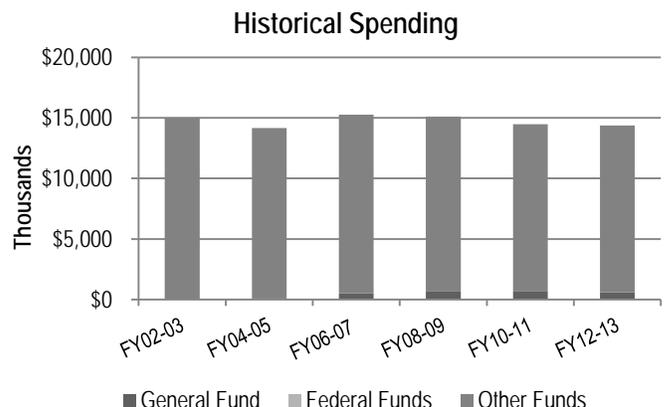
- **Economy – A thriving economy that encourages business growth and employment opportunities**
Licensing hearings for medical boards and other agencies; veteran's preferences cases; public employee discharges.
- **Education – Minnesotans have the education and skills needed to achieve their goals**
Special education hearings related to services provided by school districts; licensing matters from Board of Teaching.
- **Health – All Minnesotans have optimal health.**
Hearings involving nursing home inspections; restaurant and catering administrative penalties.
- **Community – Strong and stable families and communities.**
Child care and adult foster care maltreatment cases; unfair campaign practices cases; boundary adjustment matters.
- **Safety – People in Minnesota are safe.**
Hearings involving community notification ratings for sexual predators being released from confinement.
- **Environment – A clean, healthy environment with sustainable uses of natural resources.**
Hearings involving utility rate setting as well as environmental permits or civil citations.
- **Mobility – Sustainable options to safely move people, goods, services & information.**
Hearings involving routing of utility transmission lines and facilities; enforcement of state contracting requirements.

As a state agency serving the public, OAH is directly dedicated to serving the outcome of **Government - Efficient and accountable government services.**

BUDGET



Source: BPAS



Historical Spending does not include OAH internal service fund.
Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

OAH has a total annual budget of approximately \$10.7 million. This budget is primarily funded by receipts for provided services, dedicated funds, and a small general fund appropriation.

The **Administrative Law Division** is funded by a special revenue revolving fund and receives a biennial appropriation from the general fund to the general account of the state elections campaign fund. The costs for services rendered are assessed to the agency responsible for the action challenged by the public. The Administrative Law Division has an annual budget of \$3.19 million.

The **Municipal Boundary Adjustments Unit** administers the uniform system for boundary adjustments. In addition to various required filing fees, this unit is funded through an annual appropriation from the general fund in the amount of \$256,000.

The **Workers Compensation Division** is funded from the Special Compensation Fund through a biennial appropriation. The Workers' Compensation Division has an annual budget of \$7.25 million.

STRATEGIES

Under the authority of MS Chapter 14 and related rules, the **Administrative Law Division** provides contested case hearings in matters involving the public's challenges to state agency actions. The subject matter of these proceedings varies widely among the 100-plus state and local agencies which bring cases before OAH. The Division is staffed with a highly-experienced team of administrative law judges who preside over contested case hearings and provide mediations and other conflict resolution services throughout the state. The administrative law judges also review all state agency rule submissions for necessity and reasonableness, hear claims of unfair campaign practices in non-statewide elections, and enforce government accountability in accordance with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act when challenges are filed by members of the public. In all matters, the Division's judges serve as fair and impartial decision-makers and produce legally accurate, easily understandable and timely written decisions.

Pursuant to MS Chapters 115 and 414, the **Municipal Boundary Adjustment Unit**, acting through administrative law judges, issues orders on petitions for the creation or dissolution of municipalities, alteration of municipal boundaries through consolidation, annexation, or detachment of real property, and the establishment of sanitary districts. Matters are commenced by involved municipal governments and/or affected property owners. As a means of ensuring government accountability and public access, the Division maintains a searchable electronic database of all docketed information including maps of real property included in proceedings.

As regulated by MS Chapter 176 and associated rules, the **Workers Compensation Division** conducts pretrial and trial functions associated with petitions for workers' compensation benefits. Workers compensation judges rule on motions, conduct settlement and pretrial conferences, preside at trials, and issue awards and final decisions. The judicial staff of the Division consistently provides well-reasoned, fair and neutral decisions in a timely manner in service to injured workers and employers throughout the state.

RESULTS

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Quality	Average days for workers compensation judge to issue final decision after record close.	38	36	FY12/ FY14
Quality	Average days for an administrative law judge to issue written opinion after record close.	23.7	37	FY12/ FY14
Quality	Number and percent of mediations resulting in settlement	74/64%	95/64%	FY12/ FY14
Quality	Percent of hearings held outside metro area plus percent held by video conferencing.	10% + none	10% + 4%	FY12/ FY14
Quality	Percent of turnover in staff positions	10.4%	8.9%	FY12/FY14