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2016-17 Biennial Budget – Sentencing Guidelines Commission

Agency Profile – Sentencing Guidelines Commission..... 1

Mn.gov/sentencing-guidelines

AT A GLANCE

- The Sentencing Commission is an 11 member body comprised of representatives from the criminal justice community.
- Members are appointed by the Governor and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
- The Commission serves criminal justice practitioners, both public and private, throughout the 87 Minnesota counties.

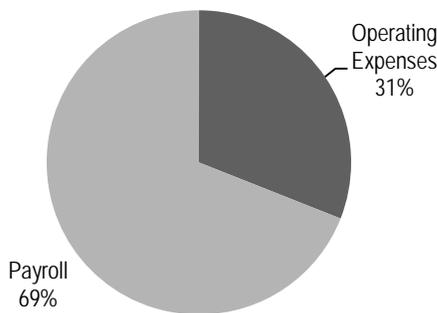
PURPOSE

The purpose of the Sentencing Guidelines Commission is to establish rational and consistent sentencing standards that enhance public safety for the citizens of Minnesota by:

- reducing sentencing disparity;
- ensuring that the sanctions imposed for felony convictions are proportional to the severity of the offense and the offender’s criminal history; and
- creating policies that support the appropriate use of finite correctional resources.

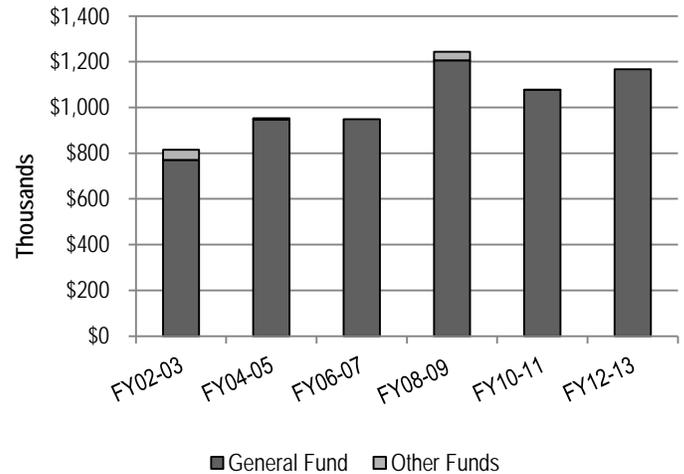
BUDGET

Spending by Program
FY 14 Actual



Source: SWIFT

Historical Spending



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

The Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines is funded through the General Fund at 100%. Our payroll budget consists of one (1) Executive Director, three (3) Research Analysts, and one (1) Management Analyst. Operating expenses include leased space, technology and maintenance costs, and education delivery costs.

STRATEGIES

The Commission utilizes the following strategies to accomplish its mission.

- The Commission maintains a comprehensive and accurate database on felony sentences.
- The Commission publishes reports on sentencing practices and related criminal justice issues. These reports aid policymakers, criminal justice officials, and the public in assessing felony sentencing policy and proposed legislation.
- Legislation directs that a sentencing worksheet be completed for every felony that will be sentenced. Commission staff reviews each worksheet to determine the appropriate application of the Guidelines.
- The Commission provides in-person and web-based educational opportunities to assist practitioners in understanding the correct application of the Guidelines policies.
- As needed, the Commission responds to changes in case law, legislation, and issues raised by interested parties.
- Annually, the Commission works with the Department of Corrections to generate prison bed projections.
- Commission members and staff serve on committees and task forces to further the goals of the criminal justice system.

RESULTS

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Quantity	Number of electronic Sentencing Worksheets reviewed by staff. ¹	18,192	18,236	2012-2013
Quantity	Data Request from practitioners, media, and the public. ²	100	100	2012-2013
Quality	Percentage of felony offenses given the recommend Guidelines sentence. ³	73.5%	72%	2011-2012
Results	Timely completion of fiscal impact statements (fiscal notes). ⁴	100% (24) ⁵	100% (42)	2013-2014

The enabling statute for the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission is Minn. Stat. § 244.09
<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=244.09>

¹ Statewide Supervision System: <https://search.s3.state.mn.us>

² Internal MSGC Data

³ 2011 and 2012 Sentencing Practices Data Reports <http://mn.gov/sentencing-guidelines/reports/>

⁴ Internal MSGC data

⁵ Reflects the total number of fiscal notes prepared by MSGC staff
 State of Minnesota