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**2014-15 Governors Budget - Uniform Laws Commission**

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**Mission:**

The ten unpaid Minnesota Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, as members of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL or ULC), work with commissioners from all fifty states to prepare uniform acts for introduction in the Minnesota and other state legislatures. Most uniform acts address complex and technical issues of commercial and other private laws.

**Statewide Outcome(s):**

Uniform Laws Commission supports the following statewide outcome(s).

Efficient and accountable government services.

**Context:**

Each year the ULC promulgates several uniform acts (most commonly four to seven acts). When a uniform act is enacted by the Minnesota legislature, it is likely to remain in the Minnesota Statutes for decades, so the cumulative impact of the ULC work is substantial. Currently, there are approximately 71 uniform acts included in the Minnesota Statutes, including such significant statutes as the Uniform Commercial Code, the Uniform Probate Code, the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act, the Uniform Arbitration Act, the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act, the Uniform Condominium Act, the Uniform Conservation Easements Act, the Uniform Fraudulent Transfers Act, the Uniform Gift to Minors Act, the Uniform Partnership Act, and the Uniform Limited Partnership Act.

The body of ULC work reflected in Minnesota Statutes is based on continuous ULC efforts since 1892. For Minnesota, and all other states, the ratio of benefit to costs cannot be matched, for all commissioners donate their time. All commissioners are lawyers. For many commissioners, their donated time adds up to a few hundred hours each year. The total cost to Minnesota covers just two items: state dues and the travel expenses for the Minnesota commissioners to attend the week-long annual meeting of the ULC. (In Nashville in 2012, in Boston in 2013, and in Williamsburg in 2014.) For Minnesota, dues and travel expenses together are a fraction of the cost of one professional employee. All state support is provided through the general fund.

**Strategies:**

The Minnesota Commissioners are active in the drafting efforts of the ULC, all having served on multiple drafting committees over the years. Each drafting committee meets for frequent two and a half day drafting meetings (Friday and Saturday all day and Sunday morning) over two, three, or four years. Expenses for these meetings are paid from the ULC budget portion that is used for state dues.

In addition, Minnesota commissioners have held leadership positions including two as president, with another, Harriet Lansing, scheduled to be president for a two year term commencing in July 2013.

A major responsibility of commissioners is to bring uniform acts to the legislature and work for enactment. They have been successful, for Minnesota’s enactment record is amount the best in the nation. The Minnesota Bar Association has been consistently helpful in enactment efforts. Legislative respect for the ULC acts is very high.

**Measuring Success:**

Approximately seventy-one uniform acts are in effect in Minnesota. Five uniform acts are ready for consideration in the 2013 legislative session.

Performance Measures	Previous	Current	Trends
Uniform acts presented to the legislature	5	5	Stable

**Performance Measures Notes:**

Acts presented to the 2012 legislature and expected to be presented to the 2013 legislature.

**Uniform Laws Commission**  
**Current, Base and Governor's Recommended Expenditures**  
(Dollars in Thousands, Biennial Totals)

	<b>General Funds</b>	<b>Other State Funds</b>	<b>Federal Funds</b>	<b>All Funds</b>
Current Biennium Expenditures (FY 2012-13)	\$98			\$98
Current Law Expenditures (FY 2014-15)	\$98			\$98
Governor's Recommended Expenditures (FY2014-15)	\$98			\$98
\$ Change from FY 2014-15 Current Law to Governor's Rec	\$0			\$0
% Change from FY 2014-15 Current Law to Governor's Rec	0%			0%

**Uniform Laws Commission  
Sources and Uses**

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Biennium FY14-FY15			Total Funds
	General Funds	Other State Funds	Federal Funds	
APPROPRIATION	\$98			\$98
<b>SOURCES OF FUNDS</b>	<b>\$98</b>			<b>\$98</b>
EXPENDITURES	\$98			\$98
PAYROLL EXPENSE				
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$98			\$98
<b>USES OF FUNDS</b>	<b>\$98</b>			<b>\$98</b>