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2014-15 Biennial Budget - Attorney General

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Mission:

The Minnesota Attorney General is the chief legal officer for the State of Minnesota, and the authority and responsibilities of the Office arise from the Constitution, State statutes, and common law. The Minnesota Attorney General's Office provides high quality and efficient legal representation to every board, commission, and agency of the State of Minnesota. The Attorney General appears for the State in state and federal courts. The Attorney General also acts in a parens patriae capacity on behalf of the citizens of Minnesota.

Statewide Outcome(s):

Attorney General supports the following statewide outcome(s).

A thriving economy that encourages business growth and employment opportunities.

Minnesotans are healthy.

Minnesotans have the education and skills needed to achieve their goals.

Strong and stable families and communities.

People in Minnesota are safe.

A clean, healthy environment with sustainable uses of natural resources.

Sustainable options to safely move people, goods, services and information.

Efficient and accountable government services.

Context:

The Minnesota Attorney General's Office:

- Provides high-quality and efficient legal representation to state agencies, boards and officials.
- Protects and saves taxpayers' dollars by defending claims for monetary judgments against state agencies and employees.
- Defends the constitutionality of laws passed by the Minnesota legislature.
- Facilitates the enforcement of laws passed by the Minnesota legislature.
- Assists client agencies to recover fines, penalties and restitution.
- Assists county attorneys in certain public safety matters.

Primary customers are the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of state government, state agencies and boards and the citizens of the state. The Office is funded through general fund appropriations and partner agreements with certain state agencies.

Strategies:

- Represent state agencies and boards in various civil and administrative proceedings.
- Provide proactive legal advice to avoid lawsuits.
- Defend state agencies from claims for monetary judgments.
- Represent state agencies and boards in various monetary recovery proceedings.
- Defend constitutionality of laws passed by the Minnesota legislature.
- Take action to ensure compliance with laws passed by the Minnesota Legislature.
- Provide legal assistance to Minnesota county attorneys and law enforcement.

Key partners are state agencies, boards and officials, the courts, local governments, administrative law judges, and Minnesota citizens.

Measuring Success:

- Citizens of state are well served.
- Effective and efficient legal advice is delivered to state agencies, boards and officials.
- Public interest is advanced.
- Taxpayer dollars are protected by defending against legal claims made against the state and by recovering funds for the state.
- The constitution is upheld and the laws of the state are enforced.

Statewide Outcome(s):

Agency Services supports the following statewide outcome(s).

A thriving economy that encourages business growth and employment opportunities.

Minnesotans are healthy.

Minnesotans have the education and skills needed to achieve their goals.

Strong and stable families and communities.

People in Minnesota are safe.

A clean, healthy environment with sustainable uses of natural resources.

Sustainable options to safely move people, goods, services and information.

Efficient and accountable government services.

Context:

The Agency Services activity:

- Provides a wide range of high-quality and efficient legal representation to an array of state agencies, boards, and officials, such as Minnesota Management and Budget, the Minnesota Department of Corrections, the Minnesota Department of Transportation, and others.
- Protects and saves taxpayer dollars by defending claims for monetary judgments against state agencies and employees.
- Provides legal representation to state agencies in disciplinary and enforcement proceedings, thereby contributing to the health, safety, and well-being of Minnesota and its citizens and upholding and implementing the laws passed by the Minnesota legislature.
- Provides legal advice to state agencies in transactional matters, including real estate transactions, contracts, and financial transactions, thereby enhancing the efficiency and accountability of State agencies.

Primary customers are state agencies and the citizens of Minnesota. The program is funded through general fund appropriations and partner agreements with certain state agencies.

Strategies:

- Defend state agencies from claims for monetary judgments.
- Represent state agencies and boards in various enforcement and disciplinary proceedings.
- Provide proactive legal advice to avoid lawsuits.

Key partners are state agencies, administrative law judges, the courts, and Minnesota citizens.

Results:

- Minimize the state's legal and financial exposure in lawsuits against the state for monetary judgments, including but not limited to eminent domain actions and appeals.
- Save taxpayer dollars by defending against legal claims for money judgments against the state and by recovering funds for the state.
- High quality, efficient legal representation is delivered to state agencies, boards, and officials.
- Legal advice and representation in transactional, contract, and financial matters contributes to the efficient and accountable delivery of government services.

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- Legal services help facilitate state agencies in implementing and administering the laws passed by the Minnesota legislature.

Performance Measures	Previous	Current	Trend
High quality legal representation is provided to the State and its citizens.			

Performance Measures Notes:

The Office of the Attorney General did not provide performance data for this measure.

Statewide Outcome(s):

Legal Services supports the following statewide outcome(s).

A thriving economy that encourages business growth and employment opportunities.

Minnesotans are healthy.

Strong and stable families and communities.

People in Minnesota are safe.

A clean, healthy environment with sustainable uses of natural resources.

Efficient and accountable government services.

Context:

The Legal Services activity:

- Provides high-quality and efficient legal representation to state agencies and boards.
- Protects and saves taxpayer dollars by defending claims for monetary judgments against state agencies and employees.
- Commences disciplinary and enforcement proceedings on behalf of the Minnesota public, thereby contributing to the health, safety, and well-being of Minnesota and its citizens and upholding and implementing the laws passed by the Minnesota legislature.
- Represents the interests of small businesses and residential customers before the Public Utilities Commission and the courts.

Primary customers are state agencies and boards, including the health licensing boards and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and Minnesota citizens. The program is funded through both general fund appropriations and partner agreements.

Strategies:

- Defend state agencies from claims for monetary judgments.
- Represent state agencies, boards and citizens in various enforcement and disciplinary proceedings.
- Provide proactive legal advice to avoid lawsuits.
- Take actions to ensure compliance with laws passed by the Minnesota legislature.

Key partners are state agencies and boards, including the Minnesota Board of Medical Practice, the Minnesota Chiropractic Board, the Minnesota Board of Nursing, the Minnesota Board of Dentistry, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, administrative law judges, the judiciary, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, and Minnesota citizens.

Results:

- Legal work helps to facilitate the implementation and enforcement of laws passed by the Minnesota legislature.
- High quality, efficient legal representation has been delivered.
- Protect taxpayer dollars by defending against legal claims for monetary judgments made against the State and by recovering funds for the state.
- Public interest is advanced in civil litigation.
- The rights of citizens are protected.
- Unfit health care professionals are disciplined.

Performance Measures	Previous	Current	Trend
High quality legal representation is provided to the State and its citizens.			

Performance Measures Notes:

The Office of the Attorney General did not provide performance data for this measure.

Attorney General Government Services

<http://www.ag.state.mn.us>

Statewide Outcome(s):

Government Services supports the following statewide outcome(s).

Minnesotans are healthy.

Strong and stable families and communities.

People in Minnesota are safe.

Sustainable options to safely move people, goods, services and information.

Efficient and accountable government services.

Context:

The Government Services activity:

- Represents the Minnesota Department of Public Safety in approximately 5,000 implied consent cases (drunk driver license revocations) annually.
- Provides expert and efficient legal advice and assistance to the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.
- Prosecutes healthcare providers in cases referred by the Minnesota Department of Human Services or other agencies involving fraud in the delivery of Medicaid Assistance program or abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of vulnerable adults.
- Provides expert legal assistance to county attorneys in prosecuting serious crime, defending felony convictions on appeal, and in civilly committing sex offenders under psychopathic personality and sexually dangerous person statutes.

Primary customers are the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, Minnesota county attorneys and law enforcement, and Minnesota citizens. The program is funded primarily through general fund appropriations.

Strategies:

- Provide legal representation to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety and Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.
- Represent state in implied consent cases and defend the state against challenges to DWI statutes.
- Provide legal assistance to Minnesota county attorneys and law enforcement and pursue prosecutions in health care fraud referrals made by the Minnesota Department of Human Services or other agencies.

Key partners are the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, the Minnesota Department of Human Services, the U.S. Department of Justice, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Minnesota county attorneys and law enforcement, Minnesota courts, and Minnesota citizens.

Results:

- Handle on behalf of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety nearly 5,000 district court implied consent proceedings that challenge revocations of driving privileges in drunken driving cases.
- Defend against challenges to DWI laws, thereby giving effect to laws passed by the Minnesota Legislature.
- The Department of Public Safety and the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Justice receive effective and efficient legal representation.
- High quality legal assistance is provided to Minnesota county attorneys and law enforcement personnel.
- High quality prosecution assistance is provided when Medical Assistance and vulnerable adult fraud cases are referred by the Minnesota Department of Human Services or other agencies.

Performance Measures	Previous	Current	Trend
High quality legal representation is provided to the State and its citizens.			

Performance Measures Notes:

The Office of the Attorney General did not provide performance data for this measure.

Attorney General Civil Law

<http://www.ag.state.mn.us>

Statewide Outcome(s):

Civil Law supports the following statewide outcome(s).

A thriving economy that encourages business growth and employment opportunities.

Minnesotans are healthy.

Minnesotans have the education and skills needed to achieve their goals.

Strong and stable families and communities.

People in Minnesota are safe.

A clean, healthy environment with sustainable uses of natural resources.

Sustainable options to safely move people, goods, services and information.

Efficient and accountable government services.

Context:

The Civil Law activity:

- Provides legal representation to the Minnesota Department of Human Services.
- Enforces state charities, non-profit, and other civil laws passed by the Minnesota legislature.

Strategies:

- Provide expert and efficient legal representation to the Minnesota Department of Human Services.
- Defend constitutionality of laws passed by the legislature.
- Enforce laws passed by the Minnesota legislature to deter fraud and abuse in the charities, non-profit and business sectors.

Key partners are the Minnesota Department of Human Services, administrative law judges, the judiciary, and Minnesota citizens. The program is funded through a combination of partner agency and general fund appropriations.

Results:

- Provide high quality legal representation to the Minnesota Department of Human Services and its employees, saving millions of dollars each year, minimizing the state's fiscal exposure, collecting money owed the state, and implementing laws passed by the Minnesota legislature.
- Laws passed by the Minnesota legislature are implemented and enforced.

Performance Measures	Previous	Current	Trend
High quality legal representation is provided to the State and its citizens.			

Performance Measures Notes:

The Office of the Attorney General did not provide performance data for this measure.

Statewide Outcome(s):

Solicitor General supports the following statewide outcome(s).

A thriving economy that encourages business growth and employment opportunities.

Minnesotans are healthy.

Strong and stable families and communities.

People in Minnesota are safe.

A clean, healthy environment with sustainable uses of natural resources.

Efficient and accountable government services.

Context:

The Solicitor General activity:

- Defends the constitutionality of laws passed by the Minnesota legislature.
- Protects and saves taxpayer dollars by defending claims for monetary judgments against state agencies and employees, including tort, employment, and other high-dollar civil legal claims.
- Provides a wide range of high-quality and efficient legal representation to state agencies, boards, and officials.

Primary customers are the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of state government and the citizens of Minnesota. The program is funded primarily through general fund appropriations.

Strategies:

- Provide expert legal representation in civil lawsuits against the state and its agencies, officials, and employees.
- Defend state agencies from high-dollar claims for monetary judgments.
- Represent state agencies and boards in various monetary recovery proceedings.
- Provide effective and proactive legal advice to state agencies to avoid lawsuits.

Key partners are the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of state government, the risk managers for the state agencies, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, and Minnesota citizens.

Results:

- Defend the constitutionality of state laws to help give effect to the policy determinations of the Minnesota legislature.
- Protect taxpayer dollars by defending against legal claims for money judgments made against the state and by recovering funds for the state.
- Ensure that claims against people and entities who owe the state money are pursued.
- High quality, efficient legal representation is delivered to state agencies, boards, and officials.

Performance Measures	Previous	Current	Trend
High quality legal representation is provided to the State and its citizens.			

Performance Measures Notes:

The Office of the Attorney General did not provide performance data for this measure.

**Attorney General
Legal Operations**
<http://www.ag.state.mn.us>

Statewide Outcome(s):

Legal Operations supports the following statewide outcome(s).

Efficient and accountable government services.

Context:

The Legal Operations activity:

- Provides a wide range of administrative, systems, library, human resources and accounting services to the Attorney General's Office.
- Interacts with other state agencies and boards on personnel, administrative and accounting issues.
- Ensures that budget and accounting practices are in accordance with state law and procedures.
- Purchases goods and services pursuant to state guidelines and requirements.
- Protects and saves taxpayer dollars by ensuring efficient use of resources and staff.

Primary customers are the Attorney General's Office and the citizens of the state.

Strategies:

- Supply human resource, library, systems, administrative and accounting services.
- Protect taxpayer dollars by ensuring accounting services are accurate and in accordance with the law.
- Maintain budget and accounting systems to ensure that they are in compliance with state law and practice.
- Facilitate purchasing to ensure that it is in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.
- Provide the Attorney General's Office with adequate support to provide high quality and efficient legal representation.
- Maintain and support computer and other technical systems to ensure the Attorney General's Office is able to provide continuity of service in an efficient and timely manner.
- Implement administrative policies and procedures in accordance with state law and requirements.

Results:

- Administrative support is provided to carry out the delivery of high quality and efficient legal services.
- Access to accurate legal resources is provided to ensure accurate and timely representation is provided.
- Fiscal matters are handled to ensure that efficient and accountable government services are provided and that the systems are in accordance with the laws of the state.
- Computer systems are operated effectively and efficiently to ensure that legal representation is provided in a consistent and timely manner.

Performance Measures	Previous	Current	Trend
Efficient, accountable support is provided to allow the Office to deliver high quality legal services.			

Performance Measures Notes:

The Office of the Attorney General did not provide performance data for this measure.