

The Agency

Attorney General

Agency Operations

The Attorney General is established under the Rhode Island Constitution as one of the five general officers subject to election by the voters. As the State's central legal agency, the Department of the Attorney General is responsible for the prosecution of all felony criminal cases, misdemeanor appeals, and misdemeanor cases brought by state law enforcement action in the various district courts.

The Attorney General initiates legal action to protect the interests of the citizens of Rhode Island regarding compliance with the Open Meetings Act and the Access to Public Records Act, and protection of the public from deceptive business practices and anti-trust violations. Additionally, the Attorney General provides legal advice to state officers and represents all agencies, departments, and commissions in litigation. The State Bureau of Criminal Identification, the central repository for all criminal records in the State, is operated and maintained by the Department of the Attorney General.

The Department of the Attorney General is divided into four programs: Criminal, Civil, Bureau of Criminal Identification, and General.

Agency Objectives

To represent the State with regard to the investigation, prosecution, and trial of all felony matters, misdemeanor cases, and appellate matters within its jurisdiction.

To provide public protection on behalf of the people of Rhode Island as citizens, consumers, and taxpayers.

To provide criminal history information and descriptive data on demand to federal and local law enforcement agencies seven days a week, 24-hours a day.

Statutory History

Article IV, paragraph 4 of 9 of the Rhode Island Constitution and R.I.G.L. 42-9 establish the Office of the Attorney General. R.I.G.L. 12-9 relates to extradition; R.I.G.L. 9-31 relates to governmental tort liability; R.I.G.L. 12-12 relates to indictments and information; R.I.G.L. 12-1 relates to criminal identification; and R.I.G.L. 11-57 relates to weapons.

The Budget

Attorney General

	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
	Actual	Actual	Revised	Recommended
Expenditures by Program				
Criminal	11,513,432	11,758,919	12,734,436	12,787,977
Civil	3,843,851	3,831,797	3,948,354	4,137,530
Bureau of Criminal Identification	836,375	817,075	1,694,697	961,404
General	1,635,592	1,810,268	2,343,048	2,213,219
Total Expenditures	\$17,829,250	\$18,218,059	\$20,720,535	\$20,100,130
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	16,154,267	16,532,769	18,138,074	18,394,066
Other State Operations	1,672,817	1,684,279	1,684,171	1,434,274
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	1,018	1,011	790	790
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$17,828,102	\$18,218,059	\$19,823,035	\$19,829,130
Capital Improvements	1,148	-	897,500	271,000
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$17,829,250	\$18,218,059	\$20,720,535	\$20,100,130
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	15,598,431	16,072,198	17,283,697	17,808,654
Federal Funds	1,648,743	1,477,925	2,197,376	1,158,544
Restricted Receipts	582,076	667,936	841,962	861,932
Other	-	-	397,500	271,000
Total Expenditures	\$17,829,250	\$18,218,059	\$20,720,535	\$20,100,130
FTE Authorization	227.9	228.5	230.5	230.5
Agency Measures				
Minorities as a Percentage of the Workforce	14.1%	14.1%	14.9%	14.9%
Females as a Percentage of the Workforce	55.5%	56.5%	55.3%	55.3%
Persons with Disabilities as a Percentage of the Workforce	6.0%	6.1%	6.1%	6.1%

The Program

Attorney General Criminal

Program Operations

The Criminal Program, with offices in Providence, Kent, Washington, and Newport counties, is responsible for the prosecution of felony cases and misdemeanor appeals from the district courts. The Narcotics and Organized Crime Prosecution Unit is composed of legal and support staff. This unit prosecutes all narcotics and organized crime cases. The Forfeiture Unit handles all asset forfeiture cases. The Information-Charging Unit prepares information for all felony cases filed in Providence County, with the exception of Grand Jury indictments. The Victim/Witness Unit administers a comprehensive assistance program for victims and state witnesses; this unit's existence is mandated by the Victim's Bill of Rights. The Diversion Unit provides alternatives to court prosecution for selected first-time, non-violent felony offenders. The Juvenile Unit is responsible for prosecuting all juveniles charged with felonies by local police and state agencies, and all adults charged with criminal child abuse. The Appellate Unit represents the State in all criminal appeals before the Rhode Island Supreme Court and post-conviction cases filed in federal court. The Medicaid Fraud Control Unit prosecutes fraud and abuse by providers of Medicaid services to Rhode Island and the Welfare Fraud Unit investigates and prosecutes all cases of welfare fraud.

Program Objectives

To represent the State with regard to the investigation, prosecution, and trial of all felony matters, misdemeanor cases brought by state law enforcement, and appellate matters within its jurisdiction.

Statutory History

Article IV, paragraph 4 of 9 of the Rhode Island Constitution and R.I.G.L. 42-9 establish the Office of the Attorney General. R.I.G.L. 12-9 relates to extradition; R.I.G.L. 9-31 relates to governmental tort liability; R.I.G.L. 12-12 relates to indictments and information; R.I.G.L. 12-1 relates to criminal identification; and R.I.G.L. 11-57 relates to weapons.

The Budget

Attorney General Criminal

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Revised	FY 2006 Recommended
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	10,499,277	10,794,108	11,632,808	11,834,239
Other State Operations	1,014,155	964,811	1,101,628	953,738
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	-	-	-	-
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$11,513,432	\$11,758,919	\$12,734,436	\$12,787,977
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$11,513,432	\$11,758,919	\$12,734,436	\$12,787,977
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	9,880,598	10,172,069	11,060,386	11,392,884
Federal Funds	1,469,146	1,402,503	1,318,236	1,034,894
Restricted Receipts	163,688	184,347	355,814	360,199
Total Expenditures	\$11,513,432	\$11,758,919	\$12,734,436	\$12,787,977
Program Measures				
Percentage of Cases Dismissed	8.8%	7.8%	7.4%	7.4%

The Program

Attorney General Civil

Program Operations

The Civil Program is comprised of six separate units, each with very different responsibilities. The General Litigation Unit handles most lawsuits brought against the State and its employees. There are approximately 1,500 active cases, ranging from small claims to issues involving millions of dollars and constitutional claims. Additionally, this unit acts as the legal advisor for 11 boards and commissions, state departments, and agencies. The Regulatory Unit represents the interests of consumers before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission, and the Rhode Island Insurance Commissioner. The Charitable Trusts Unit maintains records relating to the registration of charitable trusts in Rhode Island. The Environmental Advocacy Unit enforces civil and criminal environmental laws of the State and acts as an environmental advocate on public policy issues. The Attorney General's Office provides specialized legal counsel to the Department of Human Services. The Consumer Protection Unit monitors activity in the marketplace and represents the consumer's interest where patterns of fraud or deception have been identified. The unit investigates allegation of improper business operation and initiates settlements and enforcement actions designed to provide restitution, if required. Attempts are made to resolve consumer complaints through a mediation process.

Program Objectives

To provide cost effective legal representation to the State, its agencies, boards and commissions.

To provide public protection on behalf of the people of Rhode Island as citizens, consumers and taxpayers.

Statutory History

Article IV, paragraph 4 of 9 of the Rhode Island Constitution and R.I.G.L. 41-9 establish the office of the Attorney General. R.I.G.L. 12-9 relates to extraditions; R.I.G.L. 9-31 relates to governmental tort liability; R.I.G.L. 12-12 relates to indictments and information; R.I.G.L. 12-1 relates to criminal identification; and R.I.G.L. 11-47 relates to weapons.

The Budget

Attorney General Civil

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Revised	FY 2006 Recommended
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	3,461,671	3,470,965	3,626,978	3,823,039
Other State Operations	381,032	360,832	321,376	314,491
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	-	-	-	-
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$3,842,703	\$3,831,797	\$3,948,354	\$4,137,530
Capital Improvements	1,148	-	-	-
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$3,843,851	\$3,831,797	\$3,948,354	\$4,137,530
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	3,364,596	3,348,202	3,462,206	3,635,797
Federal Funds	60,867	6	-	-
Restricted Receipts	418,388	483,589	486,148	501,733
Total Expenditures	\$3,843,851	\$3,831,797	\$3,948,354	\$4,137,530
Program Measures	NA	NA	NA	NA

The Program

Attorney General Bureau of Criminal Identification

Program Operations

The Bureau of Criminal Identification (BCI) is a repository and central clearinghouse for information on individuals who have been arrested or convicted of crimes in Rhode Island. This information includes criminal history records, fingerprints, and warrant information. The unit operates 24-hours a day, seven days a week. This unit receives and processes requests for records from law enforcement agencies across the country. Additionally, BCI issues and maintains pistol permits, issues security guard licenses, and conducts background checks.

Program Objectives

To provide criminal history information and descriptive data on demand to federal and local law enforcement agencies, 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

Statutory History

Section 12-1-4 of the Rhode Island General Laws establishes the Bureau of Criminal Identification within the Department of the Attorney General. The duties of this unit are further outlined in Sections 12-1-5 through 12-1-12.

The Budget

Attorney General Bureau of Criminal Identification

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Revised	FY 2006 Recommended
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	700,613	690,851	1,054,955	886,462
Other State Operations	135,762	126,224	139,742	74,942
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	-	-	-	-
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$836,375	\$817,075	\$1,194,697	\$961,404
Capital Improvements	-	-	500,000	-
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$836,375	\$817,075	\$1,694,697	\$961,404
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	717,645	741,659	815,557	837,754
Federal Funds	118,730	75,416	879,140	123,650
Total Expenditures	\$836,375	\$817,075	\$1,694,697	\$961,404
Program Measures	NA	NA	NA	NA

The Program

Attorney General General

Program Operations

The General Program provides administrative support to ensure that the department operates efficiently. This program consists of six units.

The Executive Unit consists of the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General and support staff. The function of the Executive Unit is to coordinate the efforts of all parts of the department.

The Fiscal Unit is responsible for all financial operations of the department. This includes the preparation of the departmental budget, monitoring and controlling expenditures, and processing all financial paperwork.

The Personnel Unit processes all paperwork regarding hiring, transfers, promotions, and terminations, and monitors payroll records submitted to Accounts and Control. This unit must ensure that all state and federal laws and regulations are upheld, including equal employment opportunities and affirmative action requirements.

The Operations Unit is responsible for purchasing, maintenance and repair of the department's buildings and automobiles, and monitoring the department's telephone and mail systems.

The Management Information System Unit administers and operates the department's computer systems. The system consists of five central processing units, multiple application servers, over 220 desktop computers, and 30 printers. The Attorney General's computer system is linked to the court's computer system and the Rhode Island Law Enforcement Telecommunications System.

The Public Information/Legislation Unit handles all communication with the media, submits legislation on the department's behalf, and coordinates the department's education, and community outreach efforts.

Program Objectives

To provide the infrastructure necessary for the efficient operation of the department.

Statutory History

Article IV, paragraph 4 of 9 of the Rhode Island Constitution and R.I.G.L. 42-9 establish the Office of the Attorney General. R.I.G.L. 12-9 relates to extraditions; R.I.G.L. 9-31 relates to governmental tort liability; R.I.G.L. 12-12 relates to indictments and information; R.I.G.L. 12-1 relates to criminal identification; and R.I.G.L. 11-57 relates to weapons.

The Budget

Attorney General General

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Revised	FY 2006 Recommended
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	1,492,706	1,576,845	1,823,333	1,850,326
Other State Operations	141,868	232,412	121,425	91,103
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	1,018	1,011	790	790
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$1,635,592	\$1,810,268	\$1,945,548	\$1,942,219
Capital Improvements	-	-	397,500	271,000
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$1,635,592	\$1,810,268	\$2,343,048	\$2,213,219
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	1,635,592	1,810,268	1,945,548	1,942,219
Other	-	-	397,500	271,000
Total Expenditures	\$1,635,592	\$1,810,268	2,343,048	2,213,219
Program Measures	NA	NA	NA	NA