

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Budget



Fiscal Year 2012

Lincoln D. Chafee, Governor

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 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 Attorney General.

The Office of 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, Section 1 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 2009 Actual	FY 2010 Actual	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2011 Recommended	FY 2012 Recommended
Expenditures by Program					
Criminal	\$14,892,533	\$13,910,370	\$14,654,602	\$15,210,416	\$15,492,231
Civil	\$4,539,679	\$4,402,581	\$5,086,772	\$5,585,965	\$5,566,183
Bureau of Criminal Identification	\$1,052,125	\$1,055,635	\$1,131,596	\$1,141,660	\$1,126,572
General	\$2,789,154	\$2,941,992	\$2,988,249	\$3,238,585	\$3,159,135
Total Expenditures	\$23,273,491	\$22,310,578	\$23,861,219	\$25,176,626	\$25,344,121
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	21,763,184	20,399,199	21,895,175	22,788,650	23,308,914
Operating Supplies and Expenses	1,224,584	1,400,868	1,624,049	1,712,698	1,658,849
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$22,987,768	\$21,800,067	\$23,519,224	\$24,501,348	\$24,967,763
Capital Purchases and Equipment	285,723	510,511	341,995	675,278	376,358
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$23,273,491	\$22,310,578	\$23,861,219	\$25,176,626	\$25,344,121
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	20,811,434	19,592,235	21,209,730	21,443,366	22,580,366
Federal Funds	1,397,378	1,297,016	1,248,830	1,978,333	1,391,520
Restricted Receipts	843,800	1,051,750	1,202,659	1,317,657	1,122,235
Other Funds	220,879	369,577	200,000	437,270	250,000
Total Expenditures	\$23,273,491	\$22,310,578	\$23,861,219	\$25,176,626	\$25,344,121
FTE Authorization	231.1	230.0	231.1	231.1	231.1
Agency Measures					
Minorities as a Percentage of the Workforce	13.8%	15.2%	15.2%	17.0%	15.0%
Females as a Percentage of the Workforce	57.3%	59.7%	59.7%	59.0%	60.0%
Persons with Disabilities as a Percentage of the Workforce	2.6%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	2.0%

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, Section 1 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 2009 Actual	FY 2010 Actual	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2011 Recommended	FY 2012 Recommended
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	14,087,498	12,928,407	13,571,704	13,993,064	14,423,776
Operating Supplies and Expenses	748,728	882,320	970,801	1,027,920	990,673
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$14,836,226	\$13,810,727	\$14,542,505	\$15,020,984	\$15,414,449
Capital Purchases and Equipment	56,307	99,643	112,097	189,432	77,782
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$14,892,533	\$13,910,370	\$14,654,602	\$15,210,416	\$15,492,231
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	13,253,247	12,389,919	13,048,850	12,883,911	13,726,863
Federal Funds	1,343,900	1,235,503	1,192,280	1,878,391	1,366,480
Restricted Receipts	295,386	284,948	413,472	448,114	398,888
Total Expenditures	\$14,892,533	\$13,910,370	\$14,654,602	\$15,210,416	\$15,492,231
Program Measures					
Percentage of Cases Dismissed	12.1%	10.6%	10.6%	NA	NA

The Program

Attorney General Civil

Program Operations

The Civil Program is comprised of six 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, Section 1 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 2009 Actual	FY 2010 Actual	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2011 Recommended	FY 2012 Recommended
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	4,260,557	4,024,775	4,678,754	5,121,955	5,100,149
Operating Supplies and Expenses	275,963	342,812	382,404	421,517	423,541
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$4,536,520	\$4,367,587	\$5,061,158	\$5,543,472	\$5,523,690
Capital Purchases and Equipment	3,159	34,994	25,614	42,493	42,493
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$4,539,679	\$4,402,581	\$5,086,772	\$5,585,965	\$5,566,183
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	3,991,265	3,635,779	4,297,585	4,716,422	4,842,836
Restricted Receipts	548,414	766,802	789,187	869,543	723,347
Total Expenditures	\$4,539,679	\$4,402,581	\$5,086,772	\$5,585,965	\$5,566,183
Program Measures	NA	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 Office 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 2009 Actual	FY 2010 Actual	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2011 Recommended	FY 2012 Recommended
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	991,087	1,002,598	1,056,982	1,077,640	1,062,936
Operating Supplies and Expenses	56,852	46,740	72,451	60,159	59,775
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$1,047,939	\$1,049,338	\$1,129,433	\$1,137,799	\$1,122,711
Capital Purchases and Equipment	4,186	6,297	2,163	3,861	3,861
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$1,052,125	\$1,055,635	\$1,131,596	\$1,141,660	\$1,126,572
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	998,647	994,122	1,075,046	1,041,718	1,101,532
Federal Funds	53,478	61,513	56,550	99,942	25,040
Total Expenditures	\$1,052,125	\$1,055,635	\$1,131,596	\$1,141,660	\$1,126,572
Program Measures	NA	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 Attorney General's behalf, and coordinates the Attorney General's education, and community outreach efforts.

Program Objectives

To provide the infrastructure necessary for the efficient operation of the Office of the Attorney General.

Statutory History

Article IV, Section 1 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 2009 Actual	FY 2010 Actual	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2011 Recommended	FY 2012 Recommended
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	2,424,042	2,443,419	2,587,735	2,595,991	2,722,053
Operating Supplies and Expenses	143,041	128,996	198,393	203,102	184,860
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$2,567,083	\$2,572,415	\$2,786,128	\$2,799,093	\$2,906,913
Capital Purchases and Equipment	222,071	369,577	202,121	439,492	252,222
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$2,789,154	\$2,941,992	\$2,988,249	\$3,238,585	\$3,159,135
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	2,568,275	2,572,415	2,788,249	2,801,315	2,909,135
Other Funds	220,879	369,577	200,000	437,270	250,000
Total Expenditures	\$2,789,154	\$2,941,992	\$2,988,249	\$3,238,585	\$3,159,135
Program Measures	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA