

# An Overview of Legislative Commissions: LAC and LCPFP

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The Legislative Advisory Commission (LAC) and the Legislative Commission on Planning and Fiscal Policy (LCPFP) are commissions that focus on budget issues and oversight.

An advisory council, commission, or task force may be established to study or provide advice and recommendations to a state agency, the governor, or the legislature on specific issues or the administration of specific programs. Most legislative commissions are comprised solely of legislators and study issues for or provide advice and recommendations to the legislature.

The LAC and the LCPFP are established in statute and focus on state fiscal and budget issues and oversight, including the expenditure of certain funds and state budget and tax issues. The following table describes the establishment, membership, operations, and duties and authority of the commissions.

| Topic                                | Legislative Advisory Commission   | Legislative Commission on Planning and Fiscal Policy  |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| Establishment and statutory citation | Established in 1943<br><a href="#">Minn. Stat. § 3.30</a>   | Established in 1987<br><a href="#">Minn. Stat. § 3.885</a>  |
| Membership                           | Six members. The three House of Representatives members are the speaker of the House or a designee, the Ways and Means Committee chair, and the chair of the finance committee or division responsible for overseeing the items being considered. The three Senate members are the majority leader or a designee, the chair of the Committee on Finance, and the chair of the finance division responsible for overseeing the items being considered. | Eighteen members, nine from the Senate appointed by the Subcommittee on Committees of the Committee on Rules and Administration, and nine from the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House.                          |
| Chair                                | The chair alternates between a member of the Senate and a member of the House of Representatives in January of each odd-numbered year.  | Members select a chair and vice-chair from among commission members, and the chair alternates between a member of the Senate and a member of the House of Representatives in January of each odd-numbered year.                             |
| Staffing and recordkeeping           | The commissioner of management and budget serves as secretary, keeps a permanent record and minutes, and posts actions of the commission on MMB’s web site.   | Staff must be provided by existing legislative staff offices, and administrative staff must be provided by the legislative body of the commission chair. The LCC must manage administrative, clerical, and secretarial staff for the LCPFP. |

| Topic                       | Legislative Advisory Commission   | Legislative Commission on Planning and Fiscal Policy  |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Meetings                    | The LAC must meet at the call of the governor or at the call of the secretary if requested by two or more members of the commission.  | No meeting requirements are specified.  |
| Recommendations and reports | A recommendation must be made at a commission meeting or as a written recommendation signed by all commission members entitled to vote on the item.   | The commission must report to the legislature on its activities by specific dates in each odd-numbered year and must provide the public with copies of its reports and information.   |
| Duties and authority        | <p>Ongoing duties include being consulted by or receiving a report from a member of the executive branch before transferring money from certain accounts to a state agency or another account, making expenditures of federal funds or other funds, receiving federal funds, entering into certain contracts or agreements, making certain purchases or repairs, reducing amounts in specific accounts, reducing or not reducing appropriations or unexpended allotments, selling or acquiring certain land, establishing public assistance pilot projects, and selling certificates of indebtedness.</p> <p>Onetime duties include being consulted by or receiving a report from a member of the executive branch before receiving or spending federal or state money for a specific purpose, entering into certain agreements, reducing or not reducing certain appropriations, and transferring money between accounts, appropriations, or programs.</p> | <p>Ongoing duties include providing the legislature with research and analysis on state revenues and expenditures, information on fiscal and budget issues, reports on the state economy, and budget and tax studies; making recommendations on state program operations and revenue sources; studying the building needs of state government; studying state-local finance; making recommendations on the need to continue certain advisory groups and to change laws governing the advisory groups; and being consulted or notified before the commissioner of management and budget takes certain steps related to funding U.S. Bank Stadium.</p> <p>Onetime duties including making recommendations on establishing joint budget targets, reviewing an agreement for Mall of America development, reviewing expenditures used to meet TANF maintenance of effort expenditure requirements but not authorized by the legislature, reviewing certain agreements, establishing budget principles, reviewing certain transfers of money, reviewing the usefulness of agency performance reports, reviewing certain unallotments, and establishing or participating in working groups to study certain topics.</p> |

For more detailed information on the duties and authority assigned to the LAC and LCPFP between 1990 and 2020, please see the House Research publication *Legislative Advisory Commission and Legislative Commission on Planning and Fiscal Policy*. For a complete list of current legislative commissions, please see the list on the Minnesota Legislature’s [Joint Departments and Commissions web page](#).



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