The Uniform Law Commission (ULC), also known as the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL), has worked for the uniformity of state laws since 1892 and provides states with non-partisan, well-conceived and well-drafted legislation which brings clarity and stability to critical areas of state statutory law.

It is a non-profit unincorporated association, comprised of state commissions on uniform laws from each state, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Each jurisdiction determines the method of appointment and the number of commissioners actually appointed. Most jurisdictions provide for their commission by statute.

There is only one fundamental requirement for the more than 300 uniform law commissioners: that they be members of the bar. While some commissioners serve as state legislators, most are practitioners, judges, and law professors. They serve for specific terms, and receive no salaries or fees for their work with the ULC.

The purpose of the Uniform Law Commission is to study and review the law of the states to determine which areas of law should be uniform. The state uniform law commissioners promote the principle of uniformity by drafting and proposing specific statutes in areas of the law where uniformity between the states is desirable. The ULC can only propose—no uniform law is effective until a state legislature adopts it.

The source of more than 250 uniform acts, the NCCUSL has drafted and proposed acts in subject areas such as commercial law, real estate, alternate dispute resolution, domestic relations law, adoption, arbitration, deceptive trade practices, franchise and business opportunities, healthcare, limited liability and more!

Some of the widely adopted uniform acts include the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act, Uniform Probate Code, Uniform Trust Code, Uniform Family Support Act, Uniform Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Act, and Uniform Transfers to Minors Act, to name a few.
Uniform Law Commission

The ULC is a working organization. The uniform law commissioners participate in drafting specific acts; they discuss, consider, and amend drafts of other commissioners; they decide whether to recommend an act as a uniform or a model act; and they work toward enactment of ULC acts in their home jurisdictions.

More about the Uniform Law Commission:
- Strengthens the federal system by providing rules and procedures that are consistent from state to state but that also reflect the diverse experience of the states
- Statutes are representative of state experience, because the organization is made up of representatives from each state, appointed by state government
- Keeps state law up-to-date by addressing important and timely legal issues
- Efforts reduce the need for individuals and businesses to deal with different laws as they move and do business in different states
- Work facilitates economic development and provides a legal platform for foreign entities to deal with U.S. citizens and businesses
- Commissioners donate thousands of hours of their time and legal and drafting expertise every year as a public service, and receive no salary or compensation for their work.
- Deliberative and uniquely open drafting process draws on the expertise of commissioners, but also utilizes input from legal experts and advisors, and observers representing the views of other legal organizations or interests that will be subject to the proposed laws

National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws - Archive Publications

The NCCUSL Archive Publications include all available transcripts of the proceedings of each Annual Meeting, as well as the transcripts of the discussions of the Committee of the Whole of each Uniform and Model Act.

Working in conjunction with the American Law Institute (ALI), the NCCUSL co-published the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) which is known as the NCCUSL’s “signature” act and ALI’s best-known model law. The UCC is available to subscribers of HeinOnline’s American Law Institute Collection.

All acts produced by the NCCUSL commissioners undergo a minimum two-year drafting process, although often this process is much longer. Throughout those years, several drafts are formulated, each one a further refinement of the previous one and each successive draft incorporating new policies, alternative language and more.

These successive drafts produce a sort of legislative history of each act showing its development. When finally approved by the NCCUSL, the uniform acts are recommended for general adoption throughout the jurisdiction of the United States and reported to the American Bar Association.
Handbook of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws and Proceedings of the Annual Conference Meeting (1891-current)

This series coverage spans more than 125 years from the first conference to the current conference and contains the pertinent information of the proceedings of each year’s conference, historical background listings, and the Uniform and Model Acts approved.

Also includes:
- Acts promulgated by the National Conference which are presently recommended for adoption by all jurisdictions as uniform acts
- Model acts promulgated by the National Conference
- Acts drafted and promulgated by other organizations and endorsed by the National Conference
- Lists of states showing the Uniform Acts adopted therein

Century of Service: A Centennial History of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State

Published in 1991 to coincide with its 100th meeting, this work provides a full historical account of the NCCUSL’s first century of work. This work illustrates the dedication of the more than two thousand commissioners who volunteered their time and efforts to simplify the lives of businesses and individuals through the development of uniform state laws, thus further improving American state law.
Complement the NCCUSL with these valuable HeinOnline Databases, further studying the implications of American state law!

NATIONAL SURVEY OF STATE LAWS

Provides an overall view of some of the most sought-after and controversial legal topics in the United States!

This database version of Rich Leiter’s National Survey of State Laws allows users to make basic state-by-state comparisons of current state laws. The current 8th edition, along with the 7th, 6th, and 5th editions, are included in database format, which allows users to compare the same laws as they existed in 2005, 2008, 2015 and 2018. All print editions are included in HeinOnline’s image-based, fully searchable, user-friendly platform. Linking is available to subscribers of HeinOnline’s Subject Compilations of State Laws. The NSSL database is updated biannually.

AMERICAN LAW INSTITUTE LIBRARY

Search the Uniform Commercial Code in HeinOnline’s American Law Institute Library!

Working in conjunction with the NCCUSL, the American Law Institute adopted the Uniform Commercial Code, which is viewed as one of the most important developments in American Law. This uniform act, one of ALI’s best-known model laws, has been enacted in whole or in part in all 50 states, and also in the District of Columbia, U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. HeinOnline’s ALI database includes UCC Drafts 1996 and annual editions of the Official Texts and Comments.

In addition to the UCC, this database includes Restatements, Codifications, Proceedings, Reports and other Special Publications published by the American Law Institute. It even contains exclusive HeinOnline Content such as the ALI-ABA Periodicals and the “Statement of Essential Human Rights” project from ALI’s Dark Archives, something never before available in a digital format!

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