

Program Budget Comparison

The following table summarizes the total Legislative budget by year, type of expenditure, and source of funding.

Program Budget Comparison								
Budget Item	Base Fiscal 2014	Approp. Fiscal 2015	Legislative Budget 2016	Legislative Budget 2017	Biennium Fiscal 14-15	Biennium Fiscal 16-17	Biennium Change	Biennium % Change
Personal Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00 %
Operating Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00 %
Total Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00 %
State/Other Special Rev. Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00 %
Total Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00 %

Program Description

The Office of Consumer Protection (OCP) responds to consumer complaints and enforces Montana's consumer protection laws and regulations relating to unfair and deceptive business practices, including: "bait and switch," false claims, changing a contract after a sale, abusive arbitration, debt collection misconduct, door-to-door sales, telemarketing including administering Montana's do-not-call list, car and truck sales and repair including the New Vehicle Warranty Act (or Lemon Law) violations, and antitrust issues including price fixing, monopoly abuse, and restraint of trade.

OCP assists victims of identity theft and administers the state's Security Freeze Program. It provides extensive public education about consumer and telemarketing fraud and identity theft to Montana consumer groups, senior citizen organizations, law enforcement agencies, and businesses.

Program Highlights

Office of Consumer Protection Major Budget Highlights	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This program was reorganized into the Legal Services Division 	

Funding

The following table shows program funding by source from all sources of authority.

Department of Justice, 02-Office of Consumer Protection Funding by Source of Authority					
Funds	HB2	Non-Budgeted Proprietary	Statutory Appropriation	Total All Sources	% Total All Funds
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0.00 %
02140 Consumer Education Settlement	0	0	0	0	0.00 %
State Special Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00 %
Federal Special Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00 %
Proprietary Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00 %
Total All Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	

The program is funded entirely with state special revenue from the settlement of consumer protection litigation. The program is now included in the Legal Services Division.

Budget Summary by Category

The following summarizes the total budget utilizing the FY 2015 legislative base, present law adjustments, and new proposals.

Budget Summary by Category								
-----General Fund-----					-----Total Funds-----			
Budget Item	Leg. Budget Fiscal 2016	Leg. Budget Fiscal 2017	Leg. Biennium Fiscal 16-17	Percent of Budget	Leg. Budget Fiscal 2016	Leg. Budget Fiscal 2017	Leg. Biennium Fiscal 16-17	Percent of Budget
2015 Budget	0	0	0	0.00 %	906,465	906,465	1,812,930	0.00 %
PL Adjustments	0	0	0	0.00 %	(906,465)	(906,465)	(1,812,930)	0.00 %
New Proposals	0	0	0	0.00 %	0	0	0	0.00 %
Total Budget	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0	\$0	

Present Law Adjustments

The "Present Law Adjustments" table shows the adopted changes from the FY 2015 legislative appropriation. Each is discussed in the narrative that follows.

Present Law Adjustments									
-----Fiscal 2016-----					-----Fiscal 2017-----				
FTE	General Fund	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds	FTE	General Fund	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds
DP 520 - Fully Fund 2015 Legislatively Authorized FTE									
0.00	0	11,747	0	11,747	0.00	0	11,747	0	11,747
DP 530 - Reorganization									
0.00	0	(918,212)	0	(918,212)	0.00	0	(918,212)	0	(918,212)
Grand Total All Present Law Adjustments									
0.00	\$0	(\$906,465)	\$0	(\$906,465)	0.00	\$0	(\$906,465)	\$0	(\$906,465)

***Total Funds" amount includes funding from sources other than General Fund, State Special, or Federal Special (i.e. Proprietary).

DP 520 - Fully Fund 2015 Legislatively Authorized FTE -

The legislature provided appropriation authority to restore personal services funding to create a vacancy savings rate of zero.

DP 530 - Reorganization -

The legislature adopted the reorganization of the consumer protection function from the Office of Consumer Protection to the Legal Services Division within the department. This included transfers of \$906,465 in state special in FY 2016 and 9.00 FTE in FY 2016 and \$906,465 state special revenue and 9.00 FTE in FY 2017.