BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2020

Fiscal Services Division July 1, 2020

Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY Serving the Iowa Legislature

515.281.3566

Consumer Education and Litigation Fund

Purpose

The Attorney General is charged with the enforcement of Iowa Code section <u>714.16</u>, the Consumer Fraud Act. The Consumer Education and Litigation Fund is created in Iowa Code section <u>714.16C</u> and is administrated by the Attorney General. The Fund is used for consumer education and investigation and prosecution of consumer fraud, and its use is restricted by law.

Funding

Receipts to the Fund include amounts received from State or federal consumer fraud judgments or settlements; civil penalties, costs, or attorney fees; amounts specifically directed to the Fund by judgments or settlements; and amounts that are designated by the judgments or settlements for use by the Attorney General for consumer litigation or education purposes. The year-end balance carries forward to the next fiscal year. Interest earnings remain in the Fund.

Appropriations

lowa Code section <u>714.16C(2)</u> makes two standing limited appropriations from the Fund to the Office of the Attorney General:

- \$1.1 million for public education related to consumer fraud as well as enforcement of Iowa and federal consumer fraud laws.
- \$75,000 for investigation, prosecution, and consumer education related to consumer and criminal fraud committed against older lowans.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

lowa Code chapter $\underline{13}$ lowa Code sections $\underline{714.16}$ and $\underline{714.16C}$ lowa Administrative Code $\underline{61}$

Budget Unit Number

1120000088

918226

More Information

Office of the Attorney General: <u>www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov</u> LSA Staff Contact: Laura Book (515.725.0509) <u>laura.book@legis.iowa.gov</u>