

- New authority to impose fines for late filers and new advisory responsibilities
- On-line filing for lobbyists and legislators is now available

Joint Legislative Ethics Committee

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ROLE


The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee (JLEC) was established to monitor the compliance with Ohio Ethic's Law as it applies to the legislative branch. JLEC is authorized to interpret and enforce the Ethics Law's provisions, receive and review financial disclosure statements and render advisory opinions on ethical issues raised by officials and employees of the General Assembly.

The committee staff is known as the Office of the Legislative Inspector General (OLIG) and is responsible for the actual implementation of the provisions of the ethics and lobbying laws and administers legislative agent registrations and filings.

Agency In Brief					
Number of Employees	Total Appropriations-All Funds		GRF Appropriations		Appropriation Bill(s)
	2002	2003	2002	2003	
6	\$630,000	\$653,000	\$580,000	\$603,000	Am. Sub. H.B. 94

OVERVIEW

JLEC's total budget increased by 1.7 percent from FY 2001 to FY 2002, although compared to FY 2001 actual expenditures, FY 2002 appropriations are 27.8 percent higher. JLEC was appropriated \$1,230,900 for the FY 00-01 biennium but actual expenditures totaled \$1,001,444, a difference of \$299,456. Appropriations increase by 3.6 percent from FY 2002 to FY 2003. For the FY 2002-2003 biennium, JLEC requested \$1,301,000 but received \$1,282,985. Funding for the biennium will allow JLEC to fulfill their statutory duties; however, the budget cuts may require the committee to restructure some of its internal operations to accommodate biennium funding levels and to fulfill new advisory obligations, collect filing fees, and maintain the goal of continuing to advance the computerizations of lobbyist forms.

There are two new provisions in Am. Sub. H.B. 94 that affect JLEC. First, JLEC is now required to act as an advisory body to the General Assembly and to individual members, candidates, and employees on questions related to ethics and financial disclosure. Previously, JLEC was only an advisory body relating to possible conflicts of interest. Second, JLEC now may fine lobbyists \$12.50 per day for failure to file an initial registration statement or amended registration statement. The fine shall not exceed \$100 and may be waived by the director. Previously, the only recourse JLEC had to obtain late fees for failure to file was through referral for prosecution. 

FY 2002 - 2003 Final Appropriation Amounts

All Fund Groups

<i>Line Item Detail by Agency</i>			<i>FY 1999:</i>	<i>FY 2000:</i>	<i>FY 2001:</i>	<i>FY 2002 Appropriations:</i>	<i>% Change 2001 to 2002:</i>	<i>FY 2003 Appropriations:</i>	<i>% Change 2002 to 2003:</i>
Report For: Main Operating Appropriations Bill			Version: Enacted						
JLE Joint Legislative Ethics Committee									
GRF	028-321	Legislative Ethics Committee	\$ 402,438	\$ 458,329	\$446,995	\$ 580,165	29.79%	\$ 602,820	3.90%
General Revenue Fund Total			\$ 402,438	\$ 458,329	\$ 446,995	\$ 580,165	29.79%	\$ 602,820	3.90%
4G7	028-601	Joint Legislative Ethics Committee	\$ 34,451	\$ 50,069	\$46,052	\$ 50,000	8.57%	\$ 50,000	0.00%
State Special Revenue Fund Group Total			\$ 34,451	\$ 50,069	\$ 46,052	\$ 50,000	8.57%	\$ 50,000	0.00%
Joint Legislative Ethics Committee Total			\$ 436,889	\$ 508,398	\$ 493,046	\$ 630,165	27.81%	\$ 652,820	3.60%