

Judicial Conference of Ohio

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- Zero growth for GRF portion of budget
- Moneys earmarked for State Council of Uniform State Laws

OVERVIEW

Duties and Responsibilities

The Judicial Conference of Ohio is a statutory entity within the judicial branch of state government created to continually study and recommend changes in the procedures and practices of Ohio's court system in an effort to promote a fair and effective administration of justice. The Conference consists of all 713 active judges in Ohio, as well as six judicial associations. The general charge and supervision of the administration of the Conference's affairs rests with judges who serve on the Executive Committee, which is comprised of approximately 50 judges.

The Conference has 11 staff members, including the executive director who is appointed by the officers of the Executive Committee. Conference staff provide administrative and research support for more than 20 permanent and *ad hoc* committees that involve over 200 judges. While judges serving on committees receive no compensation for services rendered to the Conference, judges may receive reimbursement for reasonable and necessary expenses.

Agency in Brief

The following table selectively summarizes Conference appropriations and staffing information.

Conference In Brief					
Number of Employees*	Total Appropriations-All Funds		GRF Appropriations		Appropriation Bill(s)
	2006	2007	2006	2007	
11	\$1.18 million	\$1.18 million	\$957,000	\$957,000	Am. Sub. H.B. 66

*Employee count obtained from the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) payroll reports as of June 2005.

State Council of Uniform State Laws

The Conference is obligated to pay the expenses associated with the State Council of Uniform State Laws, which consists of four commissioners appointed by the Governor and collects and digests data concerning the prevailing law in the United States and other countries, upon such subjects where uniformity is important. The Conference essentially acts as a pass-through funding conduit for the Council. According to the Conference, the earmark is primarily used for membership fees and travel reimbursements for Ohio's delegation in relation to the National Conference of Commissioners on

Uniform State Laws. Contained in the enacted budget is a temporary law provision earmarking GRF funds of up to \$66,000 in FY 2006 and up to \$68,000 in FY 2007 for this purpose.

Vetoed Provisions

The Conference is not directly affected by any of the items contained in Am. Sub. H.B. 66 that were vetoed by the Governor.

ANALYSIS OF THE ENACTED BUDGET

For budget purposes, as detailed below, the Judicial Conference of Ohio is considered a single program series agency and its activities are not subdivided into separate programs.

Program Series 1

Education and Information

Purpose: To study and recommend changes in the procedures and practices of Ohio's court system in an effort to promote a fair and effective administration of justice.

The following table shows the two line items that are used to fund the Conference's education and information activities, as well as the enacted funding levels.

Fund	ALI	Title	FY 2006	FY 2007
General Revenue Fund				
GRF	018-321	Operating Expenses	\$957,000	\$957,000
General Revenue Fund Subtotal			\$957,000	\$957,000
General Services Fund				
GSF	018-502	Ohio Jury Instructions	\$225,000	\$225,000
General Services Fund Subtotal			\$225,000	\$225,000
Total Funding: Education & Information			\$1,182,000	\$1,182,000

Program Description: The Conference was established by Am. Sub. H.B. 205 of the 105th General Assembly to promote fair and effective administration of justice and serve as an avenue for judges to exchange experiences and suggestions relative to the operation of the state's judicial system. This is accomplished by educating and informing judges through conferences, videos, mentoring programs, and numerous publications related to the state of the judiciary in Ohio.

Funding Sources: (1) GRF, and (2) annual membership dues, conference registration fees, royalties, and other miscellaneous sources, including various one-time grants.

Implication of the Enacted Budget: Under the enacted budget, the Conference is scheduled to receive GRF appropriations totaling \$957,000 in each of FYs 2006 and 2007, which translates into a no-growth budget relative to its total actual FY 2005 GRF expenditures of \$956,998. With that amount of GRF funding, the Conference anticipates being able to maintain current service levels and cover the payroll costs associated with its existing 11 full-time staff positions.