

Legislative Service Commission

Sarkis Mahdasian, Budget Analyst

- LOEO is funded only until December 31, 2005
- Additional funding is provided for revenue forecasting, as well as Medicaid caseload projections and reform issues

OVERVIEW

Duties and Responsibilities

The Legislative Service Commission (LSC) is a nonpartisan agency providing drafting, fiscal, research, training, and other technical services to the Ohio General Assembly. LSC is governed by 14 members of the General Assembly, including the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate. The Speaker and the President each appoint six additional members, with no more than four from each chamber belonging to the same political party.

Some of the specific services provided by LSC include:

- Drafting bills, amendments, and resolutions;
- Preparing bill analyses, local impact statements, and fiscal notes;
- Providing legal and fiscal staff persons for each of the standing committees and subcommittees of the General Assembly, and for various joint, select, and ad hoc committees;
- Preparing analyses of state operating and capital budgets;
- Preparing tax revenue and welfare caseload forecasts;
- Performing long-term research studies and spot research services in both legal and fiscal areas;
- Assisting the state Controlling Board in analyzing spending requests;
- Operating a nationally recognized legislative research library;
- Distributing legislative documents to the public;
- Providing continuous technical and revisory review of the Ohio Revised Code;
- Publishing various resource documents, such as the Register of Ohio, Digest of Enactments, Members Only briefs, Ohio Facts, and Budget Footnotes;

- Administering a legislative internship program involving the recruitment, selection, training, and assignment of college-graduate interns to work as legislative staff for 13 months; and
- Training newly elected or appointment members and partisan staff in the legislative process.

Three additional offices have line item appropriations within the LSC budget: the Legislative Information Systems Office (LIS), the Correctional Institutions Inspection Committee (CIIC), and the Legislative Office of Education Oversight (LOEO). LIS provides network computer development and services for the General Assembly. CIIC is statutorily required to inspect and evaluate Ohio's prisons, and may inspect local jails. CIIC also has permissive authority to inspect and evaluate Department of Youth Services (DYS) correctional facilities. LOEO evaluates education and school-related programs in elementary and secondary schools and in state-assisted colleges and universities. The enacted budget eliminates LOEO after December 31, 2005.

Agency in Brief

Agency In Brief					
Number of Employees*	Total Appropriations-All Funds		GRF Appropriations		Appropriation Bill(s)
	2006	2007	2006	2007	
221	\$21.66 million	\$21.69 million	\$21.48 million	\$21.51 million	Am. Sub. H.B. 66

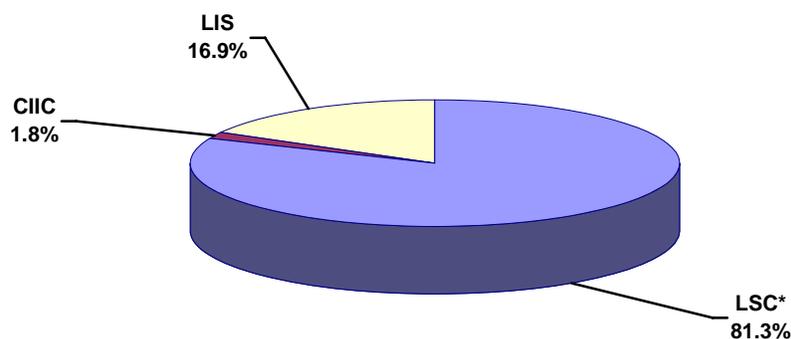
*Employee count obtained from the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) payroll reports as of June 2005 and includes all legislative staff agencies and 24 legislative interns.

ANALYSIS OF THE ENACTED BUDGET

LSC's primary source of funding is the General Revenue Fund (GRF), which accounts for approximately 99% of total funding. General Services Fund (GSF) money provides the remaining 1% of funding. The GSF receives money from the sale of publications and the Hospital Care Assurance Program. Funds from the Hospital Care Assurance Program are used to fund health-care analysis by LSC fiscal staff.

Chart 1 shows LSC's FY 2006-FY 2007 GRF funding by the offices that have line item appropriations within the LSC budget. As can be seen from the chart, the majority of GRF funds (81.3%) is appropriated to LSC, with LIS and CIIC receiving approximately 16.9% and 1.8%, respectively. GRF

Chart 1. Legislative Service Commission FY 2006-2007 GRF Budget by Office



* Includes \$628,214 in GRF funds appropriated to LOEO for FY 2006.

funding for LSC is appropriated for operating expenses (including payroll, equipment purchases, and maintenance), the internship program, and membership in national associations.

Elimination of the Legislative Office of Education Oversight

The enacted budget eliminates LOEO after December 31, 2005. It requires LOEO to complete all statutorily required studies by that date and transfers any unencumbered funds appropriated to LOEO to LSC's operating expense line item (035-321) on January 1, 2006.

Reconstitution of the Legislative Budget Office

The enacted budget states that it is the intent of the General Assembly to reconstitute a Legislative Budget Office within the Legislative Service Commission to focus on revenue forecasting. LSC is required to employ a Legislative Budget Officer. LSC is also required to employ a person to focus on Medicaid, TANF, and other federally funded caseload-driven programs. The enacted budget further states that it is the intent of the General Assembly to retain current fiscal staff within LSC.

Joint Legislative Committee on Medicaid Technology and Reform

The enacted budget creates the Joint Legislative Committee on Medicaid Technology and Reform that consists of five House members appointed by the Speaker of the House and five Senate members appointed by the Senate President. The Committee will be responsible for reviewing or studying any matter it considers relevant to the operation of the Medicaid program, with priority given to mechanisms to enhance the program's effectiveness through improved technology systems and program reform. The Committee is authorized to hire an executive director. The enacted budget earmarks \$100,000 in each fiscal year of GRF appropriation item 035-321, Operating Expenses, for costs associated with employing the executive director.

Electronic Database for School District Revenue and Expenditure Data

The enacted budget requires LSC, in conjunction with LIS, to establish and maintain an electronic database containing current and historical revenue and expenditure data for each school district in the state that is easy to use and readily accessible through the Internet.