

# Optical Dispensers Board

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- The Board licensed 3,365 opticians, 13 ophthalmologists, and 1,159 apprentices in FY 2004
- The Board received no funding for FY 2007 and will be consolidated into the Department of Health that year

## OVERVIEW

### Duties and Responsibilities

The Ohio Optical Dispensers Board was established in 1979 to maintain standards in the industry by the issuance of spectacle, contact lens, and ophthalmologist licenses. The Board seeks to maintain industry standards by establishing licensure requirements for people entering these fields. In addition to licensing opticians, ophthalmologists, and apprentices, the Board is responsible for establishing continuing education requirements and investigating complaints, with discipline as necessary.

### Fund 4K9

The Ohio Optical Dispensers Board (ODB) is part of the 4K9 Fund group. The 4K9 Fund (Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Fund) is a General Services Fund that is a repository for license fees and other assessments collected by the state's professional and occupational licensing boards. The 4K9 Fund was established by Am. Sub. H.B. 152 of the 120th General Assembly. Prior to the creation of the fund, appropriations for each licensing board were made from the GRF. This created some problems as some boards contributed more revenues than they expended and others had to be subsidized by the GRF since the revenues generated did not meet their expenditures. The 4K9 Fund eliminated these problems. The philosophy of the fund is that each board must generate enough revenues to cover their expenses. It is also quite common for the boards to develop a surplus in the fund to cover unforeseen economic hardships.

### Licensure

As of July 2004, the Board licensed 3,365 opticians (optical dispensers), 13 ophthalmologists, and 1,159 apprentices. Revenue is generated from new and renewal license fees, which are collected annually. Expenditures are for operating expenses associated with the licensure, regulation, and enforcement processes. Expenditures and revenue for FY 2004 were \$247,921 and \$343,925, respectively. The Board contributed \$96,004 more to Fund 4K9 than it expended during FY 2004. However, expenditures outmatched revenues in FY 2003 by \$38,441. Much of the net in FY 2004 was due to an increase in the renewal fees for opticians, as well as the fact that the executive director was on disability for six months, so expenditures were slightly lower.

**Agency in Brief**

<b>Agency In Brief</b>					
<b>Number of Employees*</b>	<b>Total Appropriations-All Funds</b>		<b>GRF Appropriations</b>		<b>Appropriation Bill(s)</b>
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	
3*	\$316,517	\$0	\$0	\$0	Am. Sub. H.B. 66

\*Employee count obtained from the Optical Dispensers Board.

**Summary of FYs 2006-2007 Budget Issues**

**Board Consolidation**

In the enacted version of Am. Sub. H.B. 66 of the 126th General Assembly, 20 of the independent occupational licensing boards are to be consolidated into the departments of Health, Commerce, and Public Safety in FY 2007. As a result, the affected Boards received no funding in FY 2007. In the case of the Optical Dispensers Board, the Board and its duties will be consolidated into the Department of Health. The specifics of this transfer will be addressed during FY 2006 by a task force consisting of the departments of Commerce, Health, Public Safety, and Administrative Services, and the Office of Budget and Management (OBM), as well as three members selected by the affected boards. According to OBM, current staff will be retained through FY 2006 and a hiring freeze and early retirement incentives will be offered to regulatory board staff. Effective July 1, 2006, all remaining regulatory board staff will be transferred to the relevant agency. Board members will be retained.

**Vetoed Provisions**

There were no vetoed provisions for the Optical Dispensers Board.

## ANALYSIS OF THE ENACTED BUDGET

For budget purposes, as detailed below, the Optical Dispensers Board is considered a single program series agency and its activities are not subdivided into separate programs.

### Program Series 1

### Operating Expenses

**Purpose:** To regulate the practice of Opticianry and Ocularistry, through examination, continuing education and license enforcement.

The following table shows the line items that are used to fund the Optical Dispensers Board, as well as the enacted funding levels.

Fund	ALI	Title	FY 2006	FY 2007
<b>General Services Fund</b>				
GSF	894-609	Operating Expenses	\$316,517	\$0
<b>General Services Fund Subtotal</b>			<b>\$316,517</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total Funding: Optical Dispensers Board</b>			<b>\$316,517</b>	<b>\$0</b>

### Optical Dispensers Board

**Program Description:** In accordance with sections 4725.40 and 4725.99 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Ohio Optical Dispensers Board issues licenses to optical dispensers, ocularists, and registers apprentices, all on an ongoing manner. The Board also investigates and disciplines as necessary and prosecutes the unlicensed work of opticianry or ocularistry.

**Funding Source:** Licensing fees and other assessments deposited into GSF Fund 4K9

**Implication of the Enacted Budget:** The Board received funding of \$316,517 in FY 2006 and \$0 in FY 2007. The enacted funding for FY 2006 will allow the Board to carry out its mission and allow for the 4% increase in payroll. In FY 2007, the Board will be consolidated into the Department of Health. The specifics of this transfer will be addressed during FY 2006 by a task force consisting of the departments of Commerce, Health, Public Safety, and Administrative Services, and the Office of Budget and Management, as well as three members selected by the affected boards.