

Senate

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- Primarily GRF-driven budget
- Member and staff compensation by far largest expense

OVERVIEW

Duties and Responsibilities

The legislative branch of the State of Ohio includes the General Assembly, which is composed of two chambers: the Senate and the House of Representatives. Based on Article II of the Ohio Constitution, the General Assembly can be viewed as having three fundamental legislative powers: (1) the power to enact laws providing for the establishment, organization, and operation of government in Ohio, (2) the power to enact all manner of laws that promote the public peace, health, safety, and welfare, and (3) the power to levy and collect taxes for certain purposes. In terms of more specific legislative duties and responsibilities, the Senate:

- Enacts, in conjunction with the House of Representatives, new laws or amends or repeals existing laws;
- Adopts, in conjunction with the House of Representatives, joint, concurrent, and simple resolutions that generally are formal expressions of the opinions and wishes of the General Assembly and do not require approval of the Governor;
- Confirms members of state boards and commissions appointed by the Governor, the Attorney General, the Director of the Bureau of Workers' Compensation, and certain other agency heads who the Governor is authorized to appoint;
- Judges the election, returns, and qualifications of its members; and
- Conducts the trial should any impeachment proceedings be brought forth by the House of Representatives against the Governor, other executive officers, and state judges.

Members of the Senate are elected to four-year terms, and represent 33 separate districts, the boundaries of which are determined according to equal distributions of population. The elections in the Senate are staggered such that approximately half of the members are elected in each two-year election cycle. All members are subject to term limits prescribing no more than two consecutive four-year terms.

Agency in Brief

The following table selectively summarizes Senate appropriations and staffing information. The Senate's annual operating expenses are financed almost entirely by moneys appropriated from the GRF. By far, its major cost component is personal service-related payroll expenses, in particular payments of salaries and wages, supplements, and fringe benefits.

Senate In Brief					
Number of Employees*	Total Appropriations-All Funds		GRF Appropriations		Appropriation Bill(s)
	2006	2007	2006	2007	
200	\$12.0 million	\$12.1 million	\$11.5 million	\$11.7 million	Am. Sub. H.B. 66

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

Vetoed Provisions

The Senate 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 Senate is considered a single program series agency and its activities are not subdivided into separate programs.

Program Series 1

Operating Expenses

Purpose: To support the efforts of state senators, and their staffs, in the representation of their districts.

The following table shows the line items that are used to fund the Senate, as well as the enacted appropriation levels.

Fund	ALI	Title	FY 2006	FY 2007
General Revenue Fund				
GRF	020-321	Operating Expenses	\$11,546,357	\$11,661,821
General Revenue Fund Subtotal			\$11,546,357	\$11,661,821
General Services Fund				
102	020-602	Senate Reimbursement	\$444,025	\$444,025
409	020-601	Miscellaneous Sales	\$34,155	\$34,155
General Services Fund Subtotal			\$478,180	\$478,180
Total Funding: Senate			\$12,024,537	\$12,140,001

Program Description: The Ohio Senate was established in 1802 and derives its authority from both Article II of the Ohio Constitution and Chapter 101. of the Revised Code. The primary role of the Senate is to consider bills, which may alter existing law or create new law and resolutions which are

formal expressions of the wishes and opinions of the Senate. The Senate also provides advice and consent on gubernatorial appointments to various state boards and commissions.

Funding Sources: (1) GRF, (2) sale of flags and other items to the general public, (3) moneys from salvage and recycling of equipment, materials, and supplies, and (4) miscellaneous reimbursements, such as those received for overpayment of medical insurance.

Implication of the Enacted Budget: The enacted appropriation levels appear to be sufficient for the Senate to maintain its FY 2005 level of operating expenses, including covering the payroll costs associated with 33 Senate members, 125 full-time staff, and around 40 part-time pages.

Temporary Law: Operating Expenses (Section 209.96). The enacted budget contains a temporary law provision requiring the Director of Budget and Management, at the direction of the Clerk of the Senate, to transfer: (1) any unencumbered appropriations from FY 2005 to FY 2006 for use within GRF line item 020-321, Operating Expenses, and (2) any unencumbered appropriations from FY 2006 to FY 2007 for use within GRF line item 020-321, Operating Expenses.