

Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board

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- The Board received no funding for FY 2007 and will be consolidated into the Department of Health that year
- In FY 2004, the Board licensed approximately 6,400 professionals
- The Board contributed \$223,112 more to Fund 4K9 than expended during the FYs 2003-2004 licensing cycle

OVERVIEW

Duties and Responsibilities

The Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology was established by the Ohio General Assembly to protect the health and promote the welfare of Ohioans by licensing and regulating the practices of speech-language pathology and audiology. The Board's primary duties include the initial licensure and renewal of speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and aides, enforcement of continuing education requirements, and investigation of all alleged violations of the practice of speech-language pathology and audiology, pursuant to Chapter 4753. of the Ohio Revised Code.

Fund 4K9

The Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology 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 June 30, 2004, the Board licensed 6,415 professionals, most of which were speech-language pathologists (5,276). Revenue is generated from new and renewal license fees, which are collected biennially. Expenditures are for operating expenses associated with the licensure, regulation, and enforcement processes. Expenditures and revenue for the FYs 2003-2004 renewal cycle were \$981,394 and \$758,282, respectively. The Board contributed \$223,112 more to Fund 4K9 than it expended during the two-year licensing cycle.

Agency in Brief

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Number of Employees*	Total Appropriations-All Funds		GRF Appropriations		Appropriation Bill(s)
	2006	2007	2006	2007	
4*	\$408,864	\$0	\$0	\$0	Am. Sub. H.B. 66

*Employee count obtained from the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology 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 Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology 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.

License to Practice Audiology

The enacted budget requires an individual who applies for an audiologist license on or after January 1, 2006, to have a doctor of audiology degree or the equivalent as determined by the Board instead of the currently required master's degree. However, an audiologist initially licensed or certified in another state before January 1, 2008, is able to obtain an audiologist license. The Board anticipates that there will be minimal, if any fiscal impacts since most new licensees have doctorate degrees.

Vetoed Provisions

There were no vetoed provisions for the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board.

ANALYSIS OF THE ENACTED BUDGET

For budget purposes, as detailed below, the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board is considered a single program series agency and its activities are not subdivided into separate programs.

Program Series 1

Operating Expenses

Purpose: To license and regulate the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology.

The following table shows the line items that are used to fund Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, as well as the enacted funding levels.

Fund	ALI	Title	FY 2006	FY 2007
General Services Fund				
4K9	886-609	Operating Expenses	\$408,864	\$0
General Services Fund Subtotal			\$408,864	\$0
Total Funding: Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology			\$408,864	\$0

Program Description: The Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology licenses and regulates the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology in accordance with Chapter 4753. of the Revised Code.

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

Implication of the Enacted Budget: The Board received funding of \$408,864 in FY 2006 and \$0 in FY 2007. The enacted funding for FY 2006 should allow the Board to maintain FY 2005 service levels. 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.