

Ohio Medical Transportation Board

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- Planned merger repealed
- Moneys redirected to Fund 4K9
- House Bill 85 dramatically expanded scope of responsibility

OVERVIEW

Duties and Responsibilities

The Ohio Medical Transportation Board acts as the regulatory authority for all private, hospital-based, commercial ambulances, wheelchair vans (ambulettes), mobile intensive care units, medical helicopters, and fixed-wing medical aircraft operating within the state. The Board is responsible for establishing minimum operating standards, requires annual licensing of all regulated organizations, requires an annual vehicle permit for each vehicle, and conducts physical inspections of locations and vehicles. Currently, the Board licenses approximately 369 organizations and 2,500 medical transportation vehicles.

The Board has ten members (nine voting members and one nonvoting member) all of whom are appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate. Members are not compensated, but are reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. Its current staff includes 3 full-time employees, 2 contract part-time in-house staff, and 24 contract field inspectors.

Consolidation Repealed

Amended Substitute House Bill 66 of the 126th General Assembly contained a temporary law provision that: (1) expressed the intent of the General Assembly to consolidate the Board within the Department of Public Safety not later than July 1, 2006, (2) created a transition team to develop a plan to ensure the smooth and timely transition of the Board into the Department, and (3) expressed the intent of the General Assembly to introduce a bill in FY 2006 that would include the necessary statutory changes to effect the consolidation and include revised appropriations for FY 2007. Amended Substitute House Bill 530 of the 126th General Assembly repealed that temporary law provision. Thus, the Board was never consolidated with the Department of Public Safety.

Agency in Brief

The following table selectively summarizes Board appropriations and staffing information.

| Agency In Brief | | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|------|-----------------------|
| Number of Employees* | Total Appropriations-All Funds | | GRF Appropriations | | Appropriation Bill(s) |
| | 2008 | 2009 | 2008 | 2009 | |
| 3 | \$471,450 | \$473,450 | \$0 | \$0 | Am. Sub. H.B. 119 |

*Employee count obtained from the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) payroll reports as of June 15, 2007.

On February 26, 2006, the Controlling Board approved a \$35,000 increase in the Board's FY 2007 appropriation authority, from \$388,450 to \$423,450, largely to fund additional contract inspectors who perform on-site inspections and investigate licensees. The need for this increase reflected a noticeable expansion in the scope of the Board's licensing and inspection responsibilities resulting from the enactment of Am. Sub. H.B. 85 of the 125th General Assembly, effective March 9, 2004, with certain sections effective January 1, 2004. The levels of funding provided under the enacted budget, \$471,450 in FY 2008 and \$473,450 in FY 2009, appear to be sufficient to permit the Board to meet its minimum statutory requirements.

Notable Provisions

The enacted permanent and temporary law provisions that directly affect the Board's budget and operations are summarized immediately below.

- ***Elimination of the Ohio Medical Transportation Trust Fund (R.C. 4513.263, 4743.05, and 4766.05).*** Under prior law, the Board deposited its fees and other moneys into the Ohio Medical Transportation Trust Fund (Fund 4N1). The enacted budget eliminates the Ohio Medical Transportation Trust Fund and authorizes fees and moneys collected by the Board to be deposited into the Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Fund (Fund 4K9). Functionally, this will change the Board's accounting system from a cash accounting system to an accrual-based accounting system in an effort to have a more streamlined approach to fiscal management. Numerous state licensing boards deposit funds and fees received into Fund 4K9 to accommodate cash flow needs for the various boards.
- ***Cash Transfer to Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Fund (Section 333.10).*** The enacted budget contains a temporary law provision that instructs the Director of Budget and Management to: (1) transfer the cash balance in the Ohio Medical Transportation Fund (Fund 4N1) to the Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Fund (Fund 4K9), (2) cancel any existing encumbrances against appropriation item 915-601, Operating Expenses, and (3) reestablish any existing encumbrances against appropriation item 915-604, Operating Expenses. Once the transfers have been completed, the Ohio Medical Transportation Trust Fund is abolished.
- ***Annual Report (R.C. 4766.22).*** The enacted budget creates a requirement that the Board: (1) not later than 45 days after the end of each fiscal year, submit an annual report to the Governor and General Assembly that provides information on the Board's operations for that fiscal year, including the number of licenses and permits issued and renewed, fees collected, complaints received, and investigations conducted, and (2) post the report on its web site and make it available to the public on request.

Technology Initiative

The Board is still in the process of implementing a technological initiative that will allow: (1) medical transportation organizations to apply for initial and renewal licensure online, and (2) field inspectors to complete on-site inspections, and submit information and complete the licensing process online. It is expected that this technology will reduce the amount of paperwork and time that staff currently expend as part of the licensing and inspection process.

ANALYSIS OF THE BUDGET

For budget purposes, as detailed below, the Ohio Medical Transportation Board is considered a single program series agency and its activities are not subdivided into multiple programs.

Single Program Series

License/Registration/Enforcement

Purpose: To regulate the medical transportation profession

The following table shows the line item that is used to fund the Ohio Medical Transportation Board's licensing, registration, and enforcement activities, as well as the enacted funding levels.

| Fund | ALI | Title | FY 2008 | FY 2009 |
|--|---------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| General Services Fund | | | | |
| 4K9 | 915-604 | Operating Expenses | \$471,450 | \$473,450 |
| General Services Fund Subtotal | | | \$471,450 | \$473,450 |
| Total Funding: License/Registration/Enforcement | | | \$471,450 | \$473,450 |

Program Description: The Ohio Medical Transportation Board acts as the regulatory authority for all private, hospital-based, commercial ambulances, wheelchair vans (ambulettes), mobile intensive care units, medical helicopters, and fixed-wing medical aircraft operating within the state. The Board is responsible for establishing minimum operating standards for medical transportation services throughout Ohio, requires annual licensing of all regulated organizations, requires an annual vehicle permit for each vehicle, and conducts physical inspections of locations and vehicles.

Funding Sources (in order of magnitude): (1) annual licenses and permits for regulated medical transportation organizations and related vehicles, (2) 2% of seat belt fine moneys, and (3) civil penalties

Implication of the Budget: The appropriation levels, \$471,450 in FY 2008 and \$473,450 in FY 2009, appear to be sufficient to permit the Board to meet its minimum statutory requirements.

FY 2008 - 2009 Final Appropriation Amounts

All Fund Group

| <i>Line Item Detail by Agency</i> | | | <i>FY 2005:</i> | <i>FY 2006:</i> | <i>FY 2007 Adj. Appropriations:</i> | <i>FY 2008 Appropriations:</i> | <i>% Change 2007 to 2008:</i> | <i>FY 2009 Appropriations:</i> | <i>% Change 2008 to 2009:</i> |
|---|---------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Report For: Main Operating Appropriations Bill | | | Version: Enacted | | | | | | |
| AMB Ohio Medical Transportation Board | | | | | | | | | |
| 4K9 | 915-604 | Operating Expenses | --- | --- | --- | \$ 471,450 | N/A | \$ 473,450 | 0.42% |
| 4N1 | 915-601 | Operating Expenses | \$ 371,213 | \$ 394,401 | \$ 388,450 | \$ 0 | -100.00% | \$ 0 | N/A |
| General Services Fund Group Total | | | \$ 371,213 | \$ 394,401 | \$ 388,450 | \$ 471,450 | 21.37% | \$ 473,450 | 0.42% |
| Ohio Medical Transportation Board Total | | | \$ 371,213 | \$ 394,401 | \$ 388,450 | \$ 471,450 | 21.37% | \$ 473,450 | 0.42% |