

# State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors

- Licensed 34,369 individuals and 1,941 firms in FY 2006
- Funding of \$1,058,881 in each fiscal year

*Jason Phillips, Budget Analyst*

## OVERVIEW

### Duties and Responsibilities

Pursuant to Chapter 4733. of the Revised Code, the State Board of Engineers and Surveyors regulates the professions of engineering and surveying to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public by ensuring that only properly qualified individuals and businesses become registered, and that the services provided by these licensees are consistent with established standards and codes of ethics.

To become a licensed engineer or surveyor, an individual must possess at least a bachelor's degree in engineering or surveying, have four years of practical experience, and pass two national examinations. The first examination tests an individual's fundamental knowledge of the subject area. The second examination, taken after the individual has completed four years of experience, tests the individual's knowledge of the principles and practices of engineering or surveying. The Board oversees the licensure of over 36,000 professionals and firms, 87% of whom are professional engineers.

### Agency in Brief

Agency In Brief					
Number of Employees*	Total Appropriations-All Funds		GRF Appropriations		Appropriation Bill(s)
	2008	2009	2008	2009	
7	\$1.06 million	\$1.06 million	\$0	\$0	Am. Sub. H.B. 119

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

### Registration

The State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors handles the administrative work for over 36,000 individuals and firms. The Board's licenses have annual renewal cycles. Registration fees generated an estimated \$1.06 million in revenue during FY 2007. Compared to

estimated expenditures of \$0.79 million during that year, the Board realized an estimated net gain of nearly \$270,000.

## **Summary of FYs 2008 - 2009 Budget Issues**

### **Continuing Professional Development Requirements**

The Board noted that it anticipates increased costs due to hearings associated with the new continuing education requirement that became law in February 2005 and took effect in January 2007. Sub. H.B. 322 of the 125th General Assembly required the Board to administer and enforce an annual Continuing Professional Development (CPD) program. Professional engineers and professional surveyors will be required to complete 15 hours of CPD as a prerequisite for renewal. While the exact cost increase is unknown, the Board anticipates significant increases in court reporting and hearing examiner expenses. The Board plans to conduct 1,550 to 3,100 audits (5% to 10% of its registrants). If 10% of these audits would find noncompliance, there would be approximately 150 to 310 CPD investigations, in which the Board is required to hold adjudication hearings for those registrants that do not complete the CPD requirement.

Based on the experience of other engineering and surveying boards in the country, the Board expects the CPD requirements to result in a drop in registration renewals of about 1,000 in FY 2007, 1,000 to 2,000 in FY 2008 and another 1,000 in FY 2009. Even so, the Board expects revenue to remain largely flat in the upcoming biennium, as the Board has averaged approximately 1,100 new registrations per year through examination and reciprocity. The Board also expects a significant increase in the number of licensed firms in the next three to five years.

## ANALYSIS OF THE BUDGET

### Single Program Series

### Operating Expenses

**Purpose:** Oversees the licensure and regulation of professional engineers and surveyors and enforces laws relating to these professions

The following table shows the line items that are used to fund the Ohio State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors as well as the funding levels for the FY 2008 - 2009 biennium by fiscal year.

Fund	ALI	Title	FY 2008	FY 2009
<b>General Services Fund Group</b>				
4K9	892-609	Operating Expenses	\$1,058,881	\$1,058,881
<b>General Services Fund Group Subtotal</b>			<b>\$1,058,881</b>	<b>\$1,058,881</b>
<b>Total Funding: State Board of Engineers and Surveyors</b>			<b>\$1,058,881</b>	<b>\$1,058,881</b>

**Program Description:** The State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors protects the health, safety, and welfare of the public by ensuring that only properly qualified individuals and businesses become registered and by enforcing Chapter 4733. of the Revised Code to ensure that registered individuals are providing services consistent with established standards and codes of ethics.

**Funding Source:** GSF Fund 4K9 – registration fees and other assessments

**Implication of the Budget:** The budget fully funds the Board's activities for FYs 2008 and 2009. The Board reported that the amounts appropriated would allow it to maintain current service levels.

**FY 2008 - 2009 Final Appropriation Amounts**

**All Fund Groups**

<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>	
<b>Report For: Main Operating Appropriations Bill</b>		<b>Version: Enacted</b>						
<b>ENG Engineers and Surveyors, State Board of</b>								
4K9 892-609 Operating Expenses	\$ 868,048	\$ 760,986	\$ 1,058,881	\$ 1,058,881	0.00%	\$ 1,058,881	0.00%	
<b>General Services Fund Group Total</b>	<b>\$ 868,048</b>	<b>\$ 760,986</b>	<b>\$ 1,058,881</b>	<b>\$ 1,058,881</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>\$ 1,058,881</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	
<b>Engineers and Surveyors, State Board of Total</b>	<b>\$ 868,048</b>	<b>\$ 760,986</b>	<b>\$ 1,058,881</b>	<b>\$ 1,058,881</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>\$ 1,058,881</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	