

# Legislative Service Commission

*Matthew L. Stiffler, Budget Analyst*

- Current staffing and service levels to be maintained
- S.B. 30 report repealed
- HCAP termination delayed
- Historical sites to be studied

## OVERVIEW

### Duties and Responsibilities

The Legislative Service Commission (LSC) is a nonpartisan agency providing drafting, fiscal, research, training, and other technical services to the Ohio General Assembly. Fourteen members of the General Assembly, including the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, govern LSC. The Speaker and the President each appoint six additional members, with no more than four from each chamber belonging to the same political party. Some of the specific services provided by LSC include:

- Drafting bills, amendments, and resolutions.
- Preparing bill analyses, local impact statements, and fiscal notes.
- Providing legal and fiscal staff persons for each of the standing committees and subcommittees of the General Assembly, and for various joint, select, and ad hoc committees.
- Preparing analyses of state operating and capital budgets.
- Conducting tax revenue and welfare caseload forecasts.
- Performing long-term research studies and spot research services in both legal and fiscal areas.
- Assisting the state Controlling Board in analyzing spending requests.
- Operating an extensive legislative research library.
- Distributing legislative documents to the public.
- Providing continuous technical and revisory review of the Ohio Revised Code.
- Publishing various resource documents, such as the Register of Ohio, Digest of Enactments, Members Only briefs, Ohio Facts, and Budget Footnotes.
- Training interns and legislative staff for both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Two additional legislative agencies are funded from appropriations to LSC as follows:

- Legislative Information Systems (LIS), which serves the General Assembly and related legislative agencies by providing computer network services, help desk support, computer education and training services, and assistance with the development of computer applications.
- Correctional Institution Inspection Committee (CIIC), which is statutorily required to inspect and evaluate Ohio's prisons, and is statutorily permitted to inspect and evaluate state juvenile correctional facilities and local correctional facilities (jails).

## Agency in Brief

The following table selectively summarizes LSC appropriations and staffing information.

Agency In Brief					
Number of Employees*	Total Appropriations - All Funds		GRF Appropriations		Appropriation Bill(s)
	2008	2009	2008	2009	
202	\$20.71 million	\$20.71 million	\$20.50 million	\$20.50 million	Am. Sub. H.B. 119

\*Full-time permanent employee count obtained from the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) payroll reports as of June 15, 2007.

## Notable Provisions

Relative to the operations of LSC, the enacted budget contains the following notable permanent and temporary law provisions.

***Senate Bill 30 Report Repealed (R.C. 103.141).*** The enacted budget repeals the requirement that LSC submit to the General Assembly, in each even-numbered year, a report (commonly know as the S.B. 30 report) estimating the costs to school districts of each education law and administrative rule that became effective during the preceding two years.

***Delay of Termination of Hospital Care Assurance Program (Sections 621.05 and 621.06).*** Under the Hospital Care Assurance Program (HCAP), the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services distributes to hospitals money generated by assessments, intergovernmental transfers, and federal matching funds. A portion of the money generated by the assessments is deposited biennially into the state treasury to the credit of LSC's Legislative Budget Services Fund (Fund 4F6) to support certain fiscal services. HCAP is scheduled to terminate on October 16, 2007; however, a provision contained in the enacted budget delays the termination date of the program until October 16, 2009.

***State Historical Sites Study (Section 753.20).*** Temporary law requires the staff of LSC to study the feasibility and potential results of establishing state incentives for local entities to assume control of state historical sites and to report the findings to the Commission not later than six months after the provision's effective date.

***Joint Legislative Committee on Medicaid Technology and Reform (Section 321.10).*** Temporary law earmarks \$100,000 in each year from GRF line item 035-321, Operating Expenses, to be used for costs associated with employing an executive director for the Joint Legislative Committee on Medicaid Technology and Reform.

## ANALYSIS OF THE ENACTED BUDGET

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

### Single Program Series

### Legislative Services

**Purpose:** To provide nonpartisan drafting, fiscal, research, training, and other technical and legislative services to the Ohio General Assembly

The following table shows the line items that are used to fund the Legislative Service Commission and certain related legislative agencies, as well as the enacted funding levels.

Fund	ALI	Title	FY 2008	FY 2009
<b>General Revenue Fund (GRF)</b>				
GRF	035-321	Operating Expenses	\$14,917,700	\$14,917,700
GRF	035-402	Legislative Interns	\$1,022,120	\$1,022,120
GRF	035-405	Correctional Institution Inspection Committee	\$438,900	\$438,900
GRF	035-409	National Associations	\$460,560	\$460,560
GRF	035-410	Legislative Information Systems	\$3,661,250	\$3,661,250
<b>General Revenue Fund Subtotal</b>			<b>\$20,500,530</b>	<b>\$20,500,530</b>
<b>General Services Fund (GSF)</b>				
4F6	035-603	Legislative Budget Services	\$154,025	\$154,025
410	035-601	Sale of Publications	\$25,250	\$25,250
5EF	035-607	House and Senate Telephone Usage	\$30,000	\$30,000
<b>General Services Fund Subtotal</b>			<b>\$209,275</b>	<b>\$209,275</b>
<b>Total Funding: Legislative Services</b>			<b>\$20,709,805</b>	<b>\$20,709,805</b>

**Program Description:** The Legislative Service Commission is a statutory agency created in 1953 to provide technical and research services to members of the General Assembly. Among its duties, the LSC is responsible for providing bill drafting, bill analysis, research, training, and other technical services to the General Assembly. It also maintains the *Register of Ohio* – an Internet means of public access to proposed agency rules. The LSC fiscal staff provides members of the General Assembly with state revenue and expenditure estimates, drafting of appropriation bills and amendments, fiscal notes and local impact statements, and general information about governmental fiscal issues.

**Funding Sources (in order of magnitude):** (1) GRF, (2) cash transferred from the Hospital Care Assurance Program, (3) reimbursements for House of Representatives and Senate telephone bills that are paid by LIS, and (4) sale of publications

**Implication of the Budget:** Under the enacted budget, LSC received an amount of funding that should be sufficient to maintain current service levels and cover the payroll costs associated with 200-plus full-time permanent staff positions.

**FY 2008 - 2009 Final Appropriation Amounts**

**All Fund Group**

**Line Item Detail by Agency**

FY 2005:      FY 2007 Adj.      FY 2008      % Change      FY 2009      % Change  
 FY 2006: Appropriations: Appropriations: 2007 to 2008: Appropriations: 2008 to 2009:

**Report For: Main Operating Appropriations Bill**

**Version: Enacted**

**LSC Legislative Service Commission**

Agency	Line Item	Description	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007 Adj.	FY 2008	% Change 2007 to 2008	FY 2009	% Change 2008 to 2009
GRF	035-321	Operating Expenses	\$ 12,763,323	\$ 12,443,709	\$ 16,026,427	\$ 14,917,700	-6.92%	\$ 14,917,700	0.00%
GRF	035-402	Legislative Interns	\$ 818,747	\$ 848,683	\$ 1,012,000	\$ 1,022,120	1.00%	\$ 1,022,120	0.00%
GRF	035-404	Legislative Office of Education Oversight	\$ 971,310	\$ 315,266	\$ 0	---	N/A	---	N/A
GRF	035-405	Correctional Institution Inspection Committee	\$ 250,289	\$ 317,699	\$ 390,000	\$ 438,900	12.54%	\$ 438,900	0.00%
GRF	035-409	National Associations	\$ 423,025	\$ 433,070	\$ 456,000	\$ 460,560	1.00%	\$ 460,560	0.00%
GRF	035-410	Legislative Information Systems	\$ 2,934,708	\$ 3,864,851	\$ 3,625,000	\$ 3,661,250	1.00%	\$ 3,661,250	0.00%
<b>General Revenue Fund Total</b>			<b>\$ 18,161,403</b>	<b>\$ 18,223,278</b>	<b>\$ 21,509,427</b>	<b>\$ 20,500,530</b>	<b>-4.69%</b>	<b>\$ 20,500,530</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
410	035-601	Sale of Publications	---	---	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,250	1.00%	\$ 25,250	0.00%
4F6	035-603	Legislative Budget Services	\$ 117,290	\$ 91,051	\$ 152,500	\$ 154,025	1.00%	\$ 154,025	0.00%
5EF	035-607	House and Senate Telephone Usage	---	---	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	0.00%	\$ 30,000	0.00%
<b>General Services Fund Group Total</b>			<b>\$ 117,290</b>	<b>\$ 91,051</b>	<b>\$ 207,500</b>	<b>\$ 209,275</b>	<b>0.86%</b>	<b>\$ 209,275</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Legislative Service Commission Total</b>			<b>\$ 18,278,693</b>	<b>\$ 18,314,330</b>	<b>\$ 21,716,927</b>	<b>\$ 20,709,805</b>	<b>-4.64%</b>	<b>\$ 20,709,805</b>	<b>0.00%</b>