

Optical Dispensers Board

- The budget reflects anticipated revenue as a result of an increase in renewal license fees

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OVERVIEW

Duties and Responsibilities

The Ohio Optical Dispensers Board was established in 1979 to maintain standards in the industry by the issuance of spectacle, contact lens, and ocularist licenses. The Board seeks to maintain industry standards by establishing licensure requirements for people entering these fields. In addition to licensing opticians, ocularists, and apprentices, the Board is responsible for establishing continuing education requirements and investigating complaints.

Fund 4K9

The Ohio Optical Dispensers Board (ODB) is part of the 4K9 Fund group (Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Fund), a General Services Fund. The fund is a repository for license fees and other assessments collected by the state's professional and occupational licensing boards. The philosophy of the fund is that each board must generate enough revenues to cover its expenses. Some boards develop a surplus to cover unforeseen economic hardships.

Fee Changes

In FY 2006, the annual renewal fee for ocularists decreased from \$135.00 to \$97.50. The Board anticipates increasing optician, ocularist, and apprentice renewal fees during the upcoming biennium, generating approximately \$18,000 in additional revenue.

Administrative Increases

During the past few years, occupational licensing boards absorbed increased administrative costs charged by other state agencies. The Optical Dispenser Board anticipates purchasing additional computer hardware during the upcoming biennium.

Payroll expenditures for the Board, as well as other state boards and agencies, will increase in this biennium as a result of the negotiated 3.5% increase in salary for state employees.

The Board instituted many cost control measures to balance expenditures and revenue, including reducing operating costs by making important information and forms available online. Board staff also implemented a new system to produce wall certificates internally versus using an outside vendor also reducing administrative costs.

The Budget

The budget will allow the Board to enhance current services and operations. Appropriations for the biennium will also provide funding to increase computer hardware and insure the Board will be able to meet the increase in payroll costs and other administrative cost increases.

Agency in Brief

Agency In Brief					
Number of Employees*	Total Appropriations-All Funds		GRF Appropriations		Appropriation Bill(s)
	2008	2009	2008	2009	
3	\$333,656	\$345,324	\$0	\$0	Am. Sub. H.B. 119

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

ANALYSIS OF THE BUDGET

Single Program Series

Operating Expenses

Purpose: Regulate the practice of Opticianry and Ocularistry, through examination, continuing education, and license enforcement.

The following table shows the line items that are used to fund the Optical Dispensers Board, as well as the budget funding levels.

Fund	ALI	Title	FY 2008	FY 2009
General Services Fund				
GSF	894-609	Operating Expenses	\$333,656	\$345,324
General Services Fund Subtotal			\$333,656	\$345,324
Total Funding: Optical Dispensers Board			\$333,656	\$345,324

Program Description: In accordance with sections 4725.40 and 4725.99 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Ohio Optical Dispensers Board issues licenses to optical dispensers, ocularists, and registers apprentices, all in an ongoing manner. The Board also investigates and disciplines as necessary and prosecutes unlicensed opticians and ocularists.

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

Implication of the Budget: The budget will allow the Board to enhance current services and operations, including implementing outreach programs to minority groups to encourage recruiting diversity in the optician and ocularist fields and developing continuing education programs to increase cultural competence of licensees. In addition, the funding level includes the increase in personnel costs the Board anticipates in the upcoming biennium. Also the budget reflects revenue anticipated from an increase in renewal license fees during the biennium.

FY 2008 - 2009 Final Appropriation Amounts

All Fund Groups

<i>Line Item Detail by Agency</i>	<i>FY 2005:</i>	<i>FY 2006: Appropriations:</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					
ODB Optical Dispensers Board, Ohio							
4K9 894-609 Operating Expenses	\$ 285,754	\$ 297,114	\$ 312,656	\$ 333,656	6.72%	\$ 345,324	3.50%
General Services Fund Group Total	\$ 285,754	\$ 297,114	\$ 312,656	\$ 333,656	6.72%	\$ 345,324	3.50%
Optical Dispensers Board, Ohio Total	\$ 285,754	\$ 297,114	\$ 312,656	\$ 333,656	6.72%	\$ 345,324	3.50%