

State Board of Optometry

- The Board licensed 2,072 optometrists in FY 2006

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OVERVIEW

Duties and Responsibilities

The State Board of Optometry regulates optometric practice throughout the state. The Board issues licenses to optometrists and conducts investigations for rule compliance or complaints received from the public. The Board is also responsible for policy revision and license issuance and renewal guidelines.

The Board administers three types of licenses: optometric, therapeutic, and diagnostic. The Board receives revenue from annual new and renewal license fees and expends funds for operating expenses associated with the licensure, regulation, and enforcement processes. In July 2006, the Board unanimously agreed to increase license and late penalty fees, increasing license revenues in the next biennium.

Fund 4K9

The State Board of Optometry is part of Fund 4K9 (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.

The Budget

The Board, along with other state agencies, will face payroll expenditure increases as a result of the negotiated 3.5% salary increase for employees. In addition to payroll increases, rental rates, health insurance, travel, and other administrative costs will increase. The budget will allow the Board to help cover these expenses.

Agency in Brief

Agency In Brief					
Number of Employees*	Total Appropriations-All Funds		GRF Appropriations		Appropriation Bill(s)
	2008	2009	2008	2009	
9	\$344,571	\$351,071	\$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: Licensure and regulation of Ohio's optometrists.

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

Fund	ALI	Title	FY 2008	FY 2009
General Services Fund				
4K9	885-609	Operating Expenses	\$344,571	\$351,071
General Services Fund Subtotal			\$344,571	\$351,071
Total Funding: Ohio State Board of Optometry			\$344,571	\$351,071

Program Description: The Ohio State Board of Optometry assures that the optometrists operating in the state are professionally competent by regulating examinations, enforcing continuing education compliance, monitoring continuing education quality, issuance and renewal of licensure, and enforcement of Chapter 4725. of the Revised Code.

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

Implication of the Budget: The budget funding levels for the Board is expected to cover costs in the upcoming biennium associated with H.B. 104 that, if passed, would require specified licensed professions to obtain a criminal background check from the Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification and require the appropriate licensing board to consider the results of those checks in determining a person's eligibility for licensure. The budget will also help the Board cover rising payroll expenditures and other administrative costs.

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>
Report For: Main Operating Appropriations Bill		Version: Enacted					
OPT Optometry, State Board of							
4K9 885-609 Operating Expenses	\$ 296,835	\$ 303,299	\$ 336,771	\$ 344,571	2.32%	\$ 351,071	1.89%
General Services Fund Group Total	\$ 296,835	\$ 303,299	\$ 336,771	\$ 344,571	2.32%	\$ 351,071	1.89%
Optometry, State Board of Total	\$ 296,835	\$ 303,299	\$ 336,771	\$ 344,571	2.32%	\$ 351,071	1.89%