

Senate

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- Primarily GRF-driven budget
- Language carries unencumbered GRF forward
- Largest expense: payroll

OVERVIEW

Duties and Responsibilities

The legislative branch of the state of Ohio includes the General Assembly, which is composed of two chambers: the Senate and the House of Representatives. Based on Article II of the Ohio Constitution, the General Assembly can be viewed as having three fundamental legislative powers: (1) the power to enact laws providing for the establishment, organization, and operation of government in Ohio, (2) the power to enact all manner of laws that promote the public peace, health, safety, and welfare, and (3) the power to levy and collect taxes for certain purposes. In terms of more specific legislative duties and responsibilities, the Senate:

- Enacts, in conjunction with the House of Representatives, new laws or amends or repeals existing laws;
- Adopts, in conjunction with the House of Representatives, joint, concurrent, and simple resolutions that generally are formal expressions of the opinions and wishes of the General Assembly and do not require approval of the Governor;
- Confirms members of state boards and commissions appointed by the Governor, the Attorney General, the Director of the Bureau of Workers' Compensation, and certain other agency heads who the Governor is authorized to appoint;
- Judges the election, returns, and qualifications of its members; and
- Conducts the trial should any impeachment proceedings be brought forth by the House of Representatives against the Governor, other executive officers, and state judges.

Members of the Ohio Senate are elected to four-year terms, and represent 33 separate districts, the boundaries of which are determined according to equal distributions of population. The elections in the Senate are staggered such that approximately half of the members are elected in each two-year election cycle. All members are subject to term limits prescribing no more than two consecutive four-year terms.

Agency in Brief

The following table selectively summarizes Senate appropriations and staffing information. Moneys appropriated from the GRF finance the Senate's annual operating expenses almost entirely. By far, its major cost component is personal service-related payroll expenses, in particular payments of salaries and wages, supplements, and fringe benefits.

Agency In Brief					
Number of Employees*	Total Appropriations-All Funds		GRF Appropriations		Appropriation Bill(s)
	2008	2009	2008	2009	
189	\$12.26 million	\$12.26 million	\$11.78 million	\$11.78 million	Am. Sub. H.B. 119

*Employee count obtained from the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) payroll reports as of June 15, 2007. For the Senate, this count includes the following number and category of employees: 33 Senators, 109 full-time permanent, 44 intermittent, and 3 part-time temporary.

ANALYSIS OF THE BUDGET

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

Single Program Series

Operating Expenses

Purpose: To support the efforts of state senators, and their staffs, in the representation of their districts

The following table shows the line items that are used to fund the Senate, as well as the enacted appropriation levels.

Fund	ALI	Title	FY 2008	FY 2009
General Revenue Fund				
GRF	020-321	Operating Expenses	\$11,778,439	\$11,778,439
General Revenue Fund Subtotal			\$11,778,439	\$11,778,439
General Services Fund				
102	020-602	Senate Reimbursement	\$448,465	\$448,465
409	020-601	Miscellaneous Sales	\$34,497	\$34,497
General Services Fund Subtotal			\$482,962	\$482,962
Total Funding: Senate			\$12,261,401	\$12,261,401

Program Description: The Senate was established in 1802 and derives its authority from both Article II of the Ohio Constitution and Chapter 101. of the Revised Code. The primary role of the Senate is to consider bills, which may alter existing law or create new law, and resolutions, which are formal expressions of the wishes and opinions of the Senate. The Senate also provides advice and consent on gubernatorial appointments to various state boards and commissions.

Funding Source: (1) GRF, (2) sale of flags and other items to the general public, (3) moneys from salvage and recycling of equipment, materials, and supplies, and (4) miscellaneous reimbursements, such as those received for overpayment of medical insurance

Implication of the Budget: The enacted budget provides a level of funding that should be sufficient for the Senate to maintain its FY 2007 staffing and service levels for the FY 2008 - 2009 biennium, including covering the payroll costs and obligations associated with 33 Senators and around 120 full-time and 40 part-time staff.

Temporary Law

Section 395.10 of the enacted budget contains a temporary law provision requiring the Director of the Office of Budget and Management, at the direction of the Clerk of the Senate, to transfer any of the Senate's unencumbered GRF appropriations from FY 2007 to FY 2008, and similarly, from FY 2008 to FY 2009. The main appropriations act of the 126th General Assembly, Am. Sub. H.B. 66, contained a similar provision relative to the transfer of the line item's unencumbered appropriations from FY 2005 to FY 2006, and from FY 2006 to FY 2007.

FY 2008 - 2009 Final Appropriation Amounts

All Fund Group

Line Item Detail by Agency

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

Report For: Main Operating Appropriations Bill

Version: Enacted

SEN Senate

GRF	020-321	Operating Expenses	\$ 10,342,417	\$ 10,811,089	\$ 11,661,821	\$ 11,778,439	1.00%	\$ 11,778,439	0.00%
General Revenue Fund Total			\$ 10,342,417	\$ 10,811,089	\$ 11,661,821	\$ 11,778,439	1.00%	\$ 11,778,439	0.00%
102	020-602	Senate Reimbursement	\$ 5,673	\$ 48,765	\$ 444,025	\$ 448,465	1.00%	\$ 448,465	0.00%
409	020-601	Miscellaneous Sales	\$ 4,307	\$ 15,116	\$ 15,000	\$ 34,497	129.98%	\$ 34,497	0.00%
General Services Fund Group Total			\$ 9,980	\$ 63,881	\$ 459,025	\$ 482,962	5.21%	\$ 482,962	0.00%
Senate Total			\$ 10,352,397	\$ 10,874,970	\$ 12,120,846	\$ 12,261,401	1.16%	\$ 12,261,401	0.00%