

Greenbook
LBO Analysis of Enacted Budget
State Employment Relations Board

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LBO Greenbook

State Employment Relations Board

Quick look...

- The State Employment Relations Board (SERB) oversees more than 3,400 public employer collective bargaining contracts covering nearly 321,000 public employees across the state.
- The State Personnel Board of Review (SPBR) operates under the administrative umbrella of SERB and deals with matters concerning exempt and nonexempt employees in the classified civil service.
- As of July 2019, SERB employed 22 full-time employees, one part-time employee, and six fixed-term board members (three under SERB and three under SPBR) overseeing public sector employment laws affecting the state and local government workforce.
- The budget provides approximately \$4.2 million in FY 2020 and \$4.4 million in FY 2021 for SERB operations. Overall, 95% of funding comes from the GRF.

FY 2016 Actual	FY 2017 Actual	FY 2018 Actual	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Appropriation	FY 2021 Appropriation
GRF ALI 125321, Operating Expenses					
\$3,482,527	\$3,647,417	\$3,666,636	\$3,816,540	\$3,998,046	\$4,136,626
% change	4.7%	0.5%	4.1%	4.8%	3.5%
Fund 5720 ALI 125603, Training and Publications					
\$68,590	\$30,624	\$147,765	\$87,218	\$227,193	\$227,760
% change	-55.4%	382.5%	-41.0%	160.5%	0.3%
Total funding					
\$3,551,116	\$3,678,041	\$3,814,401	\$3,903,758	\$4,225,239	\$4,364,386
% change	3.6%	3.7%	2.3%	8.2%	3.3%

Agency overview

The State Employment Relations Board (SERB) acts as a neutral party in carrying out Ohio's collective bargaining laws governing public employers and employees. Its responsibilities include overseeing representation elections, certifying exclusive bargaining representatives, monitoring and enforcing statutory dispute resolution procedures, mediating collective bargaining negotiations, adjudicating unfair labor practice charges, determining unauthorized strike claims, and providing information and training to parties in contract negotiations. Although the matters under its jurisdiction are different, the State Personnel Board of Review (SPBR) is under the administrative structure of SERB. SPBR is an appeals body that hears cases filed by classified exempt employees at the state and local levels but whose jurisdiction extends

to other specific civil service matters. SERB and SPBR each have their own three-member boards.

Analysis of FY 2020-FY 2021 budget

Operating Expenses (ALI 125321)

This GRF line item covers the combined operating expenses of SERB and SPBR. The majority of funding is budgeted for payroll costs, including board members, administrative law judges, labor relations specialists and mediators, researchers, and administrative staff working among the two boards. For FY 2019, these costs accounted for approximately \$3.3 million (85.4%) of the total \$3.9 million spent on SERB operations.

SERB's operations consist of seven functional sections: (1) Bureau of Mediation, (2) Business and Records, (3) Clerk's Office, (4) Hearings, (5) Representation, (6) Research and Training, and (7) Unfair Labor Practices. More than 1,700 labor contract-related cases were filed with the Board in 2018, including 136 representation matters, 247 unfair labor practice investigations, and 156 mediations. In addition to overseeing public sector labor relations, SERB produces an annual Health Insurance Report that summarizes the cost of health care in Ohio's public sector workplaces. SERB also publishes an annual Wage Settlement Report that summarizes wage increase information contained in collective bargaining agreements across the state.

Training and Publications (ALI 125603)

This line item is used to pay for research and training programs among the two boards. These activities are supported by the sale of various types of employee data collected by SERB, receipts from training seminars, and other sources of revenue deposited into the Training and Publications Fund (Fund 5720). Receipts from these sources totaled nearly \$103,000 in FY 2019. Expenditures from Fund 5720 are mostly for purchased personal services and supplies and maintenance, with a small amount used to cover payroll related to data collection and training.