

# Redbook

## LBO Analysis of Executive Budget Proposal

### State Speech and Hearing Professionals Board

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# LBO Redbook

## State Speech and Hearing Professionals Board

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### Quick look...

- The State Speech and Hearing Professionals Board licenses about 11,000 active speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and hearing aid dealers and fitters.
- The Board is governed by nine members appointed by the Governor.
- As a regulatory agency, the Board is fully supported by fees and receives no GRF funding.
- Executive budget recommendations total approximately \$1.3 million over the biennium.
  - The proposed budget will allow the Board to maintain current service levels.
  - Uses of the budget: 71.7% for personnel cost; 26.5% for supplies, maintenance, and equipment; and 1.8% for purchased personal services.

| FY 2020<br>Actual                               | FY 2021<br>Actual | FY 2022<br>Actual | FY 2023<br>Estimate | FY 2024<br>Introduced | FY 2025<br>Introduced |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Fund 4K90 ALI 123609, Operating Expenses</b> |                   |                   |                     |                       |                       |
| \$569,524                                       | \$588,397         | \$650,896         | \$652,376           | \$647,461             | \$652,461             |
| % change  | 3.3%              | 10.6%             | 0.2%                | -0.8%                 | 0.8%                  |

### Agency overview

The State Speech and Hearing Professionals Board was established by H.B. 49 of the 132<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly, which combined the regulatory duties of the former State Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (SPE) and the Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Licensing (HADFL) Board (which was administered under the Ohio Department of Health). The Board licenses speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and hearing aid dealers and fitters. The Board establishes standards for education, pre-professional training, and examination. The Board also sets standards of practice, investigates complaints, holds administrative hearings, determines appropriate disciplinary actions, and monitors continuing education compliance among licensees.

The Board’s governing authority consists of nine members appointed by the Governor, including two speech-language pathologists, three audiologists, two hearing aid fitters, and two public members. Members are appointed for three-year terms. In addition to travel reimbursement, board members receive a per diem for the performance of official board business.

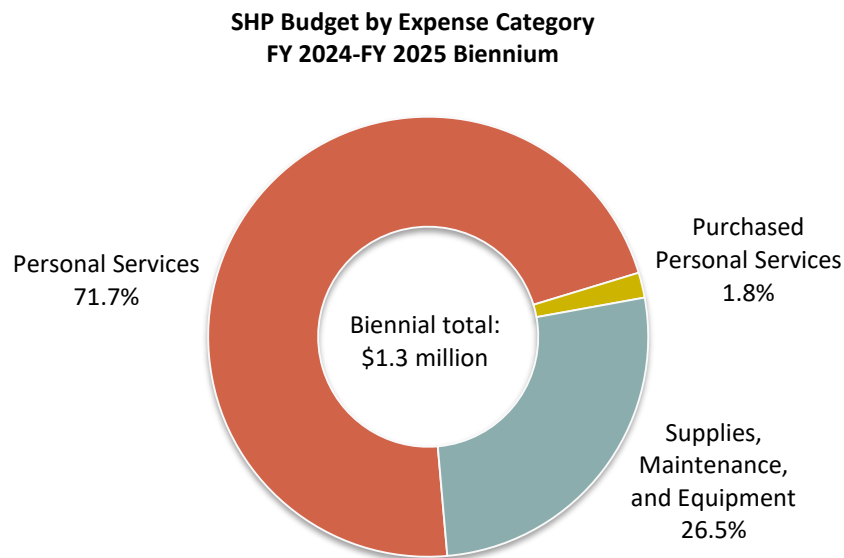
The Board’s daily operations are the responsibility of an executive director who is appointed by the nine-member governing authority. Including the Executive Director, the Board has four full-time employees. The Board receives no General Revenue Fund (GRF) money; it is completely supported by fees.

## Analysis of FY 2024-FY 2025 budget proposal

The State Speech and Hearing Professionals Board’s operations are funded by a single line item appropriation from the Dedicated Purpose Fund Group. Through this one line item, the Board pays all of its expenses. The proposed budget provides an appropriation of \$647,461 and \$652,461 for FY 2024 and FY 2025, respectively. According to the Executive Director, the proposed appropriations will allow the Board to maintain current services.

### Executive recommendations by expense category

As a regulatory agency, personal services is the largest expense category of the Board. As seen in the chart below, 71.7% of the proposed budget for the FY 2024-FY 2025 biennium are for personal services, 26.5% for supplies and maintenance and equipment, and 1.8% for purchased personal services.



### Operating revenues and expenses

The Board issues speech-language pathologist and audiologist licenses, as well as licenses for hearing aid dealers and fitters. All licenses are required to be renewed biennially. Table 1 below shows the current fee amount for each type of license.

| Table 1. License Fees by Type                                      |             |
|--|-------------|
| License Type   | Current Fee |
| Speech-Language Pathology or Audiology License                     |             |
| Initial  | \$200       |
| Renewal  | \$120       |
| Speech Language Pathology Conditional*                             | \$210       |
| Dual License (Speech-Language Pathologist and Audiologist)         |             |
| Initial  | \$400       |
| Renewal  | \$170       |
| Speech-Language Pathologist/Audiologist Aide (initial and renewal) | \$50        |
| Speech-Language Pathology/Audiology Student Permit                 | \$50        |
| Hearing Aid Dealer or Fitter License                               |             |
| Initial Dealer   | \$200       |
| Initial Fitter   | \$262       |
| Renewal  | \$120       |
| Trainee Permit   | \$150       |

\*Cost is for an initial conditional license. A second conditional license is \$10.

Fee revenues collected by the Board are deposited into the Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Fund (Fund 4K90). Many occupational licensing and regulatory boards and commissions, including the State Speech and Hearing Professionals Board, use Fund 4K90 as an operating account into which receipts are deposited and from which expenses are paid. Each licensing board or commission is generally expected to be self-sufficient, i.e., generating enough revenue to cover its expenses.

Table 2 below shows the Board's annual revenues and expenditures from FY 2019 through FY 2022, as well as the net of revenues less expenditures. Licenses are renewed biennially. The majority of revenues for the SHP Board will be collected in odd-numbered years.

| Table 2. Revenues and Expenditures, FY 2019-FY 2022 |             |            |             |            |
|---|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|
|   | FY 2019     | FY 2020    | FY 2021     | FY 2022    |
| Revenue   | \$1,296,776 | \$144,891  | \$1,144,725 | \$284,515  |
| Expenses  | \$578,267   | \$569,524  | \$588,397   | \$650,896  |
| Net   | \$718,509   | -\$424,633 | \$556,328   | -\$366,381 |

## Licenses and investigation and enforcement statistics

The Board issues several types of speech-language pathology and audiology licenses. Speech-language pathology and audiology licenses are available for individuals who have met academic and pre-professional requirements. Conditional licenses are valid for 18 months and available to individuals during the required supervision period prior to being eligible for a speech-language pathology or audiology license. Table 3 shows the number of active licenses issued for FY 2022 compared with FY 2021 and FY 2020.

| License Type  | FY 2020       | FY 2021       | Percent Change | FY 2022       | Percent Change |
|---|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Audiology   | 1,087         | 1,122         | 3.2%           | 1,133         | 1.0%           |
| Audiology Aide                                      | 89            | 98            | 10.1%          | 94            | -4.1%          |
| Speech-Language Pathology                           | 7,875         | 8,190         | 4.0%           | 8,257         | 0.8%           |
| Speech-Language Pathology Aide                      | 5             | 5             | 0.0%           | 5             | 0.0%           |
| Speech-Language Pathology Conditional License       | 371           | 332           | -10.5%         | 342           | 3.0%           |
| Dual Audiology Speech-Language Pathology            | 33            | 32            | -3.0%          | 27            | -15.6%         |
| Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Individual License  | 443           | 473           | 6.8%           | 425           | -10.1%         |
| Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Corporation License | 230           | 230           | 0.0%           | 224           | -2.6%          |
| Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Satellites          | N/A           | 422           | N/A            | 418           | -0.9%          |
| Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Trainee Permits     | 49            | 50            | 2.0%           | 59            | 18.0%          |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>10,182</b> | <b>10,954</b> | <b>7.6%</b>    | <b>10,984</b> | <b>0.3%</b>    |

\*As reported to LSC for the Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Board Report. Figures do not include inactive licenses.

The Board utilizes the online eLicensing system, which is administered through the Department of Administrative Services (DAS). Currently, the boards are assessed a charge for eLicensing operational costs. This charge is deposited into the Professionals Licensing System Fund (Fund 5JQ0), administered by DAS and expended through line item 100658, Professionals Licensing System. In the proposed budget, funding for eLicensing will instead come from new Fund 4K90 line item 100673, Professionals Licensing System, which will also be under DAS. Thus, eLicensing operational costs will not be reflected directly in the Board budgets, but will instead be directly billed out of this new line item. However, a Board may still be directly assessed a charge for any unanticipated licensing upgrades or enhancements.

## **Investigations and enforcement**

The Board investigates complaints about issues of incompetent, unethical, and/or impaired practitioners. The Board opened 100 cases in FY 2022 and 83 cases were carried over from FY 2021. In that year, the Board completed 90 investigations.

## **Continuing education**

The Board requires 20 hours of continuing education (CE) on a biennial basis for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology license renewals. Ten of the CE hours must be specific to clinical practice in the field of licensure. The Board also requires 20 hours of CE on a biennial basis for hearing aid dealers and fitters. For a hearing aid fitter license, at least ten hours must be specific to the measurement and testing of human hearing, the making of impressions for earmolds or selecting and adapting of hearing aids.

## **FY 2022-FY 2023 highlights**

### **Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact**

H.B. 252 of the 134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly enters Ohio as a party to the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact to facilitate the interstate practice of audiology and speech-language pathology and improve public access to audiology and speech language pathology services. Once the Compact is fully operational, licensed audiologists and speech-language pathologists will be able to apply for a privilege to practice in-person and through telehealth in member states.