

Greenbook

LBO Analysis of Enacted Budget

State Employment Relations Board

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Quick look.....	1
Agency overview	1
Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 budget	2
Operating Expenses (ALI 125321)	2
Training and Publications (ALI 125603)	2

LBO Greenbook

State Employment Relations Board

Quick look...

- The State Employment Relations Board (SERB) oversees more than 3,500 public employer collective bargaining contracts covering more than 332,000 public employees across the state.
- The State Personnel Board of Review (SPBR) under the administrative umbrella of SERB deals with matters concerning exempt and nonexempt employees in the classified civil service.
- As of June 2025, the agency employed 21 full-time employees, two part-time employees, two part-time temporary, and six fixed-term board members. This combined staff supported both SERB and SPBR.
- The budget provides operating funding of \$4.7 million in FY 2026 and \$4.8 million in FY 2027.

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 125321, Operating Expenses					
\$3,992,713	\$4,041,909	\$4,199,611	\$4,140,749	\$4,533,029	\$4,655,023
% change	1.2%	3.9%	-1.4%	9.5%	2.7%
Fund 5720 ALI 125603, Training and Publications					
\$41,484	\$76,256	\$188,356	\$129,555	\$138,000	\$138,972
% change	83.8%	147.0%	-31.2%	6.5%	0.7%
Total funding:					
\$4,034,197	\$4,118,165	\$4,387,967	\$4,270,304	\$4,671,029	\$4,793,995
% change	2.1%	6.6%	-2.7%	9.4%	2.6%

Agency overview

The State Employment Relations Board (SERB) acts as a neutral party in carrying out Ohio's collective bargaining laws covering 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 and deals with other specific civil service matters. SERB and SPBR each have their own three-member boards.

Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 budget

Operating Expenses (ALI 125321)

Appropriations under this line item are approximately \$4.5 million in FY 2026 and \$4.7 million in FY 2027. This funding covers the combined operating expenses of the State Employment Relations Board (SERB) and State Personnel Board of Review (SPBR). Most of the 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 2025, these costs accounted for approximately \$3.7 million of the total \$4.1 million spent on SERB operations.

SERB consists 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) Investigations. Nearly 1,700 labor contract-related cases were filed with the Board in 2024, including 1,328 mediations, 204 union election or representation issues, and 188 unfair labor practice investigations. The Board's Research and Training Section conducted two conferences, providing collective bargaining and labor law training to more than 400 public labor professionals. SERB also produces an annual Health Insurance Report that summarizes the cost of health care in Ohio's public sector workplaces. Another key research product is the annual Wage Settlement Report that summarizes wage increase information contained in collective bargaining agreements across the state.

Training and Publications (ALI 125603)

Appropriations under this line item are \$138,000 in FY 2026 and \$138,972 in FY 2027. The funding pays 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 \$99,046 in FY 2025.