

Greenbook

LBO Analysis of Enacted Budget

State Vision Professionals Board

Jacquelyn Schroeder, Senior Budget Analyst
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LBO Greenbook

State Vision Professionals Board

Quick look...

- The State Vision Professionals Board licenses optometrists, ocularists, and opticians.
- The Board is governed by seven members appointed by the Governor.
- As a regulatory agency, the Board is fully supported by fees and receives no GRF funding.
- Appropriations total approximately \$1.3 million over the biennium.

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
Fund 4K90 ALI 129609, Operating Expenses					
\$538,930	\$476,212	\$549,551	\$613,095	\$609,659	\$668,146
% change	-11.6%	15.4%	11.6%	-0.6%	9.6%

Agency overview

The State Vision Professionals Board (VPB) was established by H.B. 49 of the 132nd General Assembly, which combined the regulatory duties of the former State Board of Optometry (OPT) and Ohio Optical Dispensers Board (ODB). The Board began operations in 2018. The Board, among other things, issues optometry and optical dispenser licenses and certifications, conducts investigations of complaints, and monitors continuing education requirements, and approves continuing education courses.

The Board's governing authority consists of seven members appointed by the Governor, including four optometrists, two optical dispensers, and one public member.

The Board's daily operations are the responsibility of an executive director appointed by the seven-member governing authority. Including the Executive Director, the Board has four full-time employees as of July 2025. The Board receives no General Revenue Fund (GRF) dollars; it is entirely supported by fees.

Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 budget

The State Vision 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 budget provides an appropriation of \$609,659 in FY 2026, a 0.6% decrease from FY 2025 expenditures, and \$668,146 in FY 2027, a 9.6% increase over FY 2026. As a regulatory agency, personal services is the Board's largest expense category.

Licenses and fees

The Board issues and renews optometry and optical dispenser licenses, as well as other related registrations and certifications. The initial and renewal fee is waived for optometrists on active duty in the military. H.B. 509 of the 134th General Assembly requires licenses to be issued biennially rather than annually.¹ The table below shows the fee amount for each type of license.

Current License Fees by Type	
License Type	Fee
Optometrist License*	\$350
Optician License*	\$195
Registered Apprentice**	\$20

*Initial and renewal fees are the same.

**There is no charge to renew a registration.

VPB/zg

¹ Under the act, an optometrist license or dispensing optician license issued or renewed on or after April 6, 2023 (the act's effective date) was issued as a biennial license. Certificates of licensure to practice optometry in effect on that date continued until December 31, 2024, and dispensing optician licenses in effect on April 6, 2023, will continue until December 31, 2025.