

Redbook

LBO Analysis of Executive Budget Proposal

Ohio State Dental Board

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LBO Redbook

Ohio State Dental Board

Quick look...

- The Ohio State Dental Board regulates about 41,000 dentists, dental hygienists, and related professionals.
- The Board is governed by 13 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 \$4.7 million over the biennium.
 - Uses of the budget: 82% for personal services, 15% for supplies and maintenance, and 3% for purchased personal services.

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
Fund 4K90 ALI 880609, Operating Expenses					
\$1,707,833	\$1,614,427	\$1,898,017	\$1,991,497	\$2,281,030	\$2,372,258
% change	-5.5%	17.6%	4.9%	14.5%	4.0%

Agency overview

The State Dental Board was established in 1892. The Board issues licenses to dentists, dental hygienists, and dental radiographers. The Board also issues a variety of certificates and permits related to the practice of dentistry. The Board sets standards for training, ethics, and the practice of dentistry and dental hygiene. The Board investigates complaints, holds administrative hearings, determines appropriate disciplinary actions, and monitors continuing education compliance among its licensees and certificate holders.

The Board’s governing authority consists of 13 members appointed by the Governor, including nine dentists, three dental hygienists, and one public member. Members are appointed to four-year terms and may serve two terms. The Board’s daily operations are the responsibility of an executive director who is appointed by the 13-member governing authority. The Board currently has 13 employees, inclusive of two vacancies which are in the process of being filled. The executive proposal provides funding to allow the Board to maintain existing staff levels and to hire an additional staff member during the next biennium, which would bring the Board’s total employee count to 14.

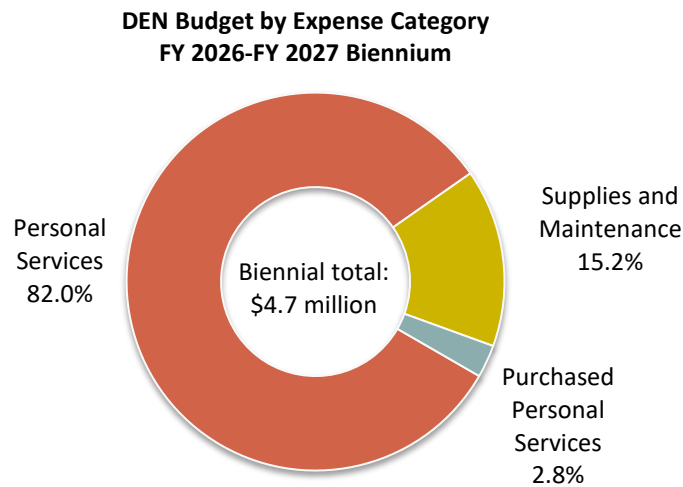
Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 budget proposal

The 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 \$2.3 million in FY 2026 and approximately \$2.4 million in FY 2027. Again, the executive

proposal provides the necessary funding for an additional staff member to be hired during the next biennium.

Executive recommendations by expense category

As a regulatory agency, personal services is the largest expense category of the Board. As seen from the chart below, approximately 82.0% of the proposed budget for the biennium is for personal services, 15.2% for supplies and maintenance, and 2.8% for purchased personal services.



Operating revenues and expenses

The Board issues several types of licenses and certificates. Table 1 below shows the current fees for licenses and certificates.¹ Licenses issued by the Board are required to be renewed biennially.

Table 1. Current License Fees by Type (as of January 1, 2025)	
License Type	Fee
Dentists	
Initial License	\$454
License Renewal	\$312
General Anesthesia Permit*	\$127
Conscious Sedation Permit*	\$127
Oral Health Access Supervision Permit**	\$25
Limited Resident License	\$13

¹ H.B. 509 of the 134th General Assembly made changes to the Board’s licensing and renewal fees beginning on January 1, 2025.

Table 1. Current License Fees by Type (as of January 1, 2025)	
License Type	Fee
Limited Teaching License**	\$127
Temporary Limited Continuing Education License	\$127
Renewal of Temporary Limited Continuing Education	\$94
Teledentistry Permit**	\$20
Dental Hygienists	
Initial License	\$184
License Renewal	\$144
Oral Health Access Supervision Permit**	\$25
Dental Assistant Radiographers**	\$32
Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary**	\$25
Coronal Polishing Certificate***	\$19

*These permits and certificates are renewed biennially; there is no fee for renewal.

**Initial and renewal fees are the same.

***This certificate is issued once and never expires.

Of the initial and renewal fees for dentists, \$40 is transferred to the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) for the Dentist Loan Repayment Fund.² The Dentist Loan Repayment Program, administered by ODH, reimburses dental students for all or part of tuition, room and board, and other educational expenses. In order to participate, students must go through an application process and agree to provide services in dental health resource shortage areas upon graduation from an accredited dental college. A similar program for dental hygienists is also administered by ODH. Of the license renewal fees for dental hygienists, \$10 is transferred to ODH for the Dental Hygienist Loan Repayment Program.

The remainder of the fee revenues collected by the Board are deposited into the Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Fund (Fund 4K90) to support the Board's operating costs. Many occupational licensing and regulatory boards and commissions, including the State Dental Board, use the fund 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 revenues and expenditures each year from FY 2019 through FY 2024, as well as the net of revenues less expenditures. Most licenses issued by the Board are required to be renewed every two years. Previously, the Board had a staggered renewal cycle with dentist and hygienist licenses expiring in even-numbered fiscal years and

² H.B. 509 of the 134th General Assembly requires, beginning January 1, 2025, \$40 of each initial license fee to be transferred to the Dentist Loan Repayment Fund regardless of whether the license was issued in an even-numbered or odd-numbered year. Previously, \$40 was transferred for initial licenses issued in an even-numbered year and \$20 for those issued in an odd-numbered year.

dental assistant radiographer licenses expiring in odd-numbered fiscal years. However, H.B. 509, which is described below, makes a number of changes to the Board's licensing processes that began on January 1, 2025, including providing for a license to expire two years after the date of issuance.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Revenue	\$791,558	\$3,289,515	\$707,464	\$3,365,893	\$754,317	\$3,363,261
Expenses	\$1,526,234	\$1,530,352	\$1,714,898	\$1,707,833	\$1,614,427	\$1,898,016
Net	-\$734,676	\$1,759,163	-\$1,007,434	\$1,658,060	-\$860,110	\$1,465,244

Note: Data from the Ohio Administrative Knowledge System (OAKS).

H.B. 509 of the 134th General Assembly – licensing and renewal fee changes

Beginning January 1, 2025, H.B. 509 of the 134th General Assembly made various changes to Board operations:

- Eliminates fee amounts that differ based on the year initial licenses were issued (odd-numbered year vs. even-numbered year) and provides for a single fee amount;
- Eliminates dates established in statute for license renewals and instead provides that each license is valid for a two-year period, expires two years after the date of issuance, and may be renewed for additional two-year periods;
- Sets the initial dental license fee at \$454, which is the current amount for licenses in an even-numbered year (eliminating the fee of \$267 in an odd-numbered year) and retains the current renewal fee;
- Removes a fee of \$20 of each initial license fee to be paid to the Dentist Loan Repayment Fund (Fund 5Z70) in odd-numbered years and instead requires the existing \$40 fee in even-numbered years to be paid to Fund 5Z70 out of all initial license fees;
- Sets the initial dental hygienist license fee at \$184 (eliminating the fee of \$120 in an odd-numbered year) and retains the current renewal fee of \$144; and
- Eliminates the dental hygienist teacher's certificate and the temporary volunteer's certificate.

Licensure

To carry out its regulatory responsibility, the Board establishes standards of practice and licenses and certifies qualified dental practitioners. Table 3 below shows the Board's active licenses between FY 2022 and FY 2024.

Table 3. Active Licenses/Permits by Type, FY 2022-FY 2024

License Type	FY 2022	FY 2023	Percent Change	FY 2024	Percent Change
Dentists	7,082	7,442	5.1%	7,081	-4.9%
Dental Hygienists	8,344	8,691	4.2%	8,522	-1.9%
Dental Assistant Radiographers	16,830	15,126	-10.1%	17,563	16.1%
Limited Licenses*	424	482	13.7%	495	2.7%
Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary	3,154	3,284	4.1%	3,427	4.4%
Conscious Sedation Permit	368	391	6.3%	390	-0.3%
General Anesthesia	246	256	4.1%	249	-2.7%
Teledentistry Permit	16	24	50.0%	30	25.0%
Coronal Polishing Certificate	2,517	2,747	9.1%	2,987	8.7%
Oral Health Access Supervision Permits – Hygienist	94	100	6.4%	107	7.0%
Oral Health Access Supervision Permits – Dentist	38	48	26.3%	50	4.2%
Total	39,113	38,591	-1.3%	40,901	6.0%

*Includes Limited Residents, Limited Teaching, and Limited Continuing Education licenses.

Investigations and enforcement

The Board's regulatory obligations also include investigating complaints about issues of incompetent, unethical, or impaired practitioners. The most common complaint has been for standards of care. The Board received 447 complaints in FY 2024 and 289 were carried over from the previous year. That year, some actions taken by the Board include entering into 33 consent agreements, suspending 12 licenses, and issuing 108 warning letters.

Quality Intervention Program

The Quality Intervention Program (QUIP) allows the Board to address cases against a licensee who has a practice deficiency that has been identified by the Board through an initial investigation. A licensee may participate in the program if the Board determines that there are reasonable grounds to believe the licensee has violated a provision of Chapter 4715 of the Revised Code due to a clinical or communication problem that could be improved through program participation. QUIP provides early intervention and remedial education services (at the licensee's expense), monitors the remediation process, and provides a means to efficiently review and follow up on complaints. Success is measured by documentation demonstrating that the licensee's skills are improved and that the licensee can safely and competently treat dental consumers.

Continuing education

The Board requires continuing education (CE) for license renewal. Requirements vary by license. Table 4 shows the current number of CE hours required every two years for license renewal.

License Type	Hours
Dentist	30
Dental Hygienists	20
Dental Assistant Radiographers	2

Highlights for FY 2024-FY 2025

S.B. 40 of the 135th General Assembly entered Ohio as a party to the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact. The Compact serves to facilitate the interstate practice of and improve public access to dentistry and dental hygiene. The bill requires Ohio to allow dentists or dental hygienists from other participating states to practice in Ohio.