

# Redbook

## LBO Analysis of Executive Budget Proposal

### State Speech and Hearing Professionals Board

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#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Quick look.....                                     | 1 |
| Agency overview .....                               | 1 |
| Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 budget proposal.....    | 2 |
| Executive recommendations by expense category ..... | 2 |
| Operating revenues and expenses .....               | 2 |
| Licenses.....                                       | 3 |
| Investigations and enforcement .....                | 4 |
| Continuing education .....                          | 4 |

# LBO Redbook

## State Speech and Hearing Professionals Board

### Quick look...

- The State Speech and Hearing Professionals Board licenses about 12,000 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.
  - Uses of the budget: 77.1% for personnel cost; 19.0% for supplies, maintenance, and equipment; and 3.9% for purchased personal services.

| FY 2022<br>Actual                               | FY 2023<br>Actual | FY 2024<br>Actual | FY 2025<br>Estimate | FY 2026<br>Introduced | FY 2027<br>Introduced |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Fund 4K90 ALI 123609, Operating Expenses</b> |                   |                   |                     |                       |                       |
| \$650,896                                       | \$662,324         | \$621,315         | \$652,461           | \$649,200             | \$665,400             |
| % change  | 1.8%              | -6.2%             | 5.0%                | -0.5%                 | 2.5%                  |

### 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) Board 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 reimbursements for necessary expenses, board members receive a per diem for the performance of official board business.

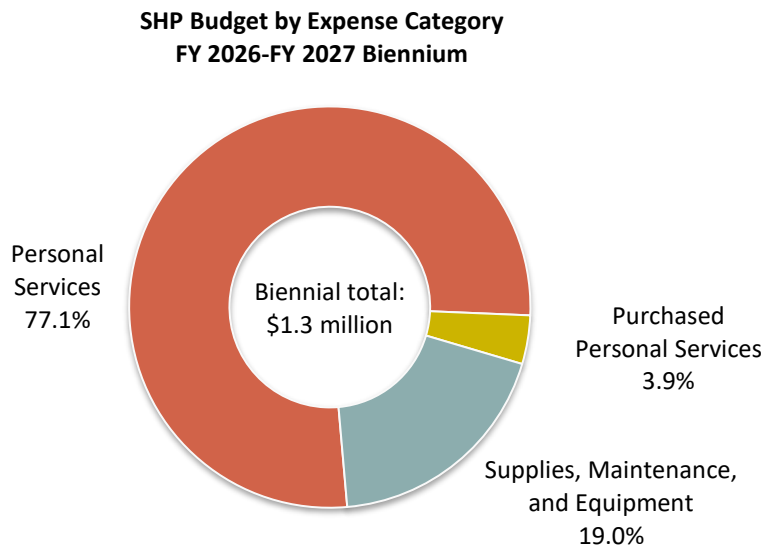
The Board’s daily operations are the responsibility of an executive director who is appointed by the nine-member governing authority. Including the Executive Director, the Board has four full-time employees. The Board receives no General Revenue Fund (GRF) money; it is completely supported by fees.

## Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 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 \$649,200 and \$665,400 for FY 2026 and FY 2027, 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, 77.1% of the proposed budget for the FY 2026-FY 2027 biennium are for personal services, 19.0% for supplies and maintenance and equipment, and 3.9% 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       |

| Table 1. License Fees by Type                                      |             |
|--|-------------|
| License Type   | Current Fee |
| Dual License (Speech-Language Pathologist and Audiologist)         |             |
| Initial  | \$400       |
| Renewal  | \$170       |
| Speech-Language Pathologist/Audiologist Aide (initial and renewal) | \$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 2024, as well as the net of revenues less expenditures. Licenses are renewed biennially. The majority of revenues for the SHP Board are collected in odd-numbered fiscal years.

| Table 2. Revenues and Expenditures, FY 2019-FY 2024 |             |            |             |            |             |            |
|---|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|
|   | FY 2019     | FY 2020    | FY 2021     | FY 2022    | FY 2023     | FY 2024    |
| Revenue   | \$1,296,776 | \$144,891  | \$1,144,725 | \$284,515  | \$1,346,981 | \$170,082  |
| Expenses  | \$578,267   | \$569,524  | \$588,397   | \$650,896  | \$662,324   | \$621,315  |
| Net   | \$718,509   | -\$424,633 | \$556,328   | -\$366,381 | \$684,657   | -\$451,233 |

## Licenses

The Board issues several types of licenses to individuals who have met academic and pre-professional requirements. Table 3 shows the number of active licenses issued for FY 2024 compared with FY 2023 and FY 2022. Ohio entered the Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact after the passage of H.B. 252 of the 134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. While not currently operational, the Compact is anticipated to begin in August 2025.

Table 3. Active Licenses by Type, FY 2022-FY 2024\*

| License Type  | FY 2022       | FY 2023       | Percent Change | FY 2024       | Percent Change |
|---|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Audiology   | 1,133         | 1,143         | 0.9%           | 1,203         | 5.2%           |
| Audiology Aide                                      | 94            | 86            | -8.5%          | 96            | 11.6%          |
| Speech-Language Pathology                           | 8,257         | 8,350         | 1.1%           | 8,686         | 4.0%           |
| Speech-Language Pathology Aide                      | 5             | 5             | 0.0%           | 5             | 0.0%           |
| Speech-Language Pathology Conditional License       | 342           | 360           | 5.3%           | 320           | -11.1%         |
| Dual Audiology Speech-Language Pathology            | 27            | 23            | -14.8%         | 24            | 4.3%           |
| Inactive Audiology                                  | 53            | 34            | -35.8%         | 33            | -2.9%          |
| Inactive Speech-Language Pathology                  | 250           | 245           | -2.0%          | 234           | -4.5%          |
| Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Individual License  | 425           | 402           | -5.4%          | 420           | 4.5%           |
| Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Corporation License | 224           | 199           | -11.2%         | 203           | 2.0%           |
| Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Satellites          | 418           | 401           | -4.1%          | 403           | 0.5%           |
| Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Trainee Permits     | 59            | 55            | -6.8%          | 60            | 9.1%           |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>11,287</b> | <b>11,303</b> | <b>0.1%</b>    | <b>11,687</b> | <b>3.4%</b>    |

\*As reported to LSC for the Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Board Report.

## Investigations and enforcement

The Board investigates complaints about issues of incompetent, unethical, and/or impaired practitioners. In FY 2024, the Board opened 51 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.

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