

# Redbook

## LBO Analysis of Executive Budget Proposal

### State Vision Professionals Board

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# LBO Redbook

## State Vision Professionals Board

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### Quick look...

- The State Vision Professionals Board employs a staff of four and licensed nearly 6,600 optometrists, ophthalmologists, and opticians at the end of FY 2024.
- 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.
- Executive budget recommendations total approximately \$1.3 million over the biennium.
  - Approximate uses of the budget: 85.9% for personnel costs, 13.4% for supplies and maintenance, and 0.8% for purchased personal services.

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
<b>Fund 4K90 ALI 129609, Operating Expenses</b>					
\$538,930	\$476,212	\$549,551	\$619,684	\$609,659	\$668,146
% change	-11.6%	15.4%	12.8%	-1.6%	9.6%

### Agency overview

The State Vision Professionals Board (VPB) was established by H.B. 49 of the 132<sup>nd</sup> 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. Members are appointed for three-year terms and are limited to three consecutive terms on the Board. The Board meets at least four times per year. In addition to reimbursements for actual and necessary expenses, board members are paid a per diem for time spent conducting board business.

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. The Board receives no General Revenue Fund (GRF) dollars; it is entirely supported by fees.

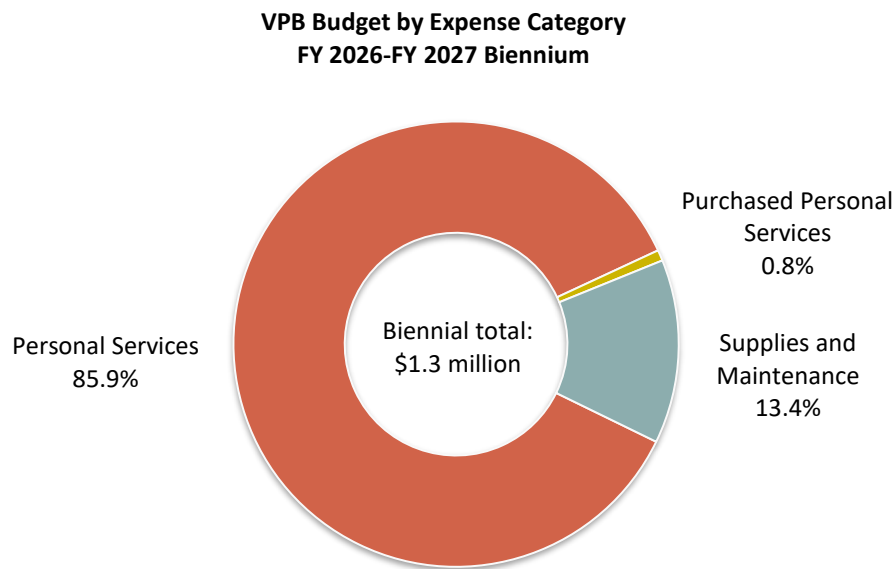
### Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 budget proposal

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 proposed budget provides an appropriation of \$609,659 in FY 2026, a 1.6% decrease from FY 2025 estimated expenditures, and \$668,146 in FY 2027, a 9.6% increase over FY 2026. These recommendations will allow the Board to maintain current operations.

### Executive recommendations by expense category

As a regulatory agency, personal services is the Board’s largest expense category. As shown in the chart below, 85.9% of the proposed budget for the FY 2026-FY 2027 biennium is for personal services; 13.4% for supplies, maintenance, and equipment; and 0.8% for purchased personal services.



### Operating revenues and expenses

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; 23 military optometrists licenses were issued in FY 2024. H.B. 509 of the 134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly requires licenses to be issued biennially rather than annually.<sup>1</sup> Table 1 below shows the fee amount for each type of license.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

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.

## Revenues and expenditures

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 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 revenues 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. The revenue decreased substantially in FY 2024 due to the transition to a biennial renewal period.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Revenue	\$786,806	\$770,347	\$739,715	\$768,375	\$755,965	\$98,910
Expenses	\$487,671	\$553,118	\$534,490	\$538,930	\$476,212	\$549,551
Net	\$299,135	\$217,229	\$205,225	\$229,445	\$279,753	-\$450,641

## Licensure

To carry out its regulatory responsibility, the Board establishes standards of practice and issues optometry and optical dispenser licenses, certifications, and registrations. Table 3 below shows the number of active licenses between FY 2022 and FY 2024.

License Type	FY 2022	FY 2023	Percent Change	FY 2024	Percent Change
Therapeutic Optometrist	2,333	2,320	-0.6%	2,460	6.0%
Diagnostic Optometrist*	7	7	0.0%	7	0.0%
Optometrist Only	11	9	-18.2%	8	-11.1%
Military	13	23	76.9%	23	0.0%
Optician	2,877	2,819	-2.0%	2,985	5.9%

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

License Type	FY 2022	FY 2023	Percent Change	FY 2024	Percent Change
Ocularist**	7	7	0.0%	7	0.0%
Apprentice Registration	1,279	1,180	-7.7%	1,075	-8.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,527</b>	<b>6,365</b>	<b>-2.5%</b>	<b>6,565</b>	<b>3.1%</b>

\*This type of certification is no longer available to optometrists licensed after 1992. An optometrist who received a diagnostic certification prior to 1992 may administer topical ocular pharmaceutical agents for evaluation purposes only. Optometrists licensed prior to 1992, with or without diagnostic certification, may continue to practice and renew the license and certification they currently hold until they retire or stop practicing.

\*\*This license was eliminated in H.B. 509 of the 134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. The Board was permitted to issue initial licenses until December 31, 2024, and allows an individual holding such a license to renew until that date.

## Investigations and enforcement

The Board's regulatory obligations also include investigating complaints about issues of incompetent, unethical, and impaired practitioners. According to the Board, in FY 2024, the Board investigated 34 formal complaints, all of which were closed. The Board also conducts unannounced onsite inspections to check for compliance with the Board's laws and rules.

## Continuing education

For license renewal, the Board requires that optometrists complete 50 continuing education hours biennially; 20 of those hours must be related to pharmacology. The requirements for opticians are as follows: 12 hours for spectacle dispensers and 24 hours for spectacle contact lens dispensers. Continuing education programs must be approved by the Board.