Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Serving the Ohio General Assembly since 1953

LSC History and Purpose

The Ohio Legislative Service Commission (LSC) was established in law in 1953 to provide nonpartisan drafting, fiscal, research, training, and other technical services for all 132 legislators. The Commission, composed of 14 legislators led by the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate, appoints the LSC Director to staff and oversee day-to-day operations of LSC.

LSC Staff

LSC services are delivered by a staff with a wide range of educational backgrounds, from high school graduates to JDs, MPAs, and PhDs. The Office of Research and Drafting (ORD) is staffed by attorneys and research analysts, organized by subject matter. The Legislative Budget Office (LBO) is staffed by budget analysts and economists, organized by agency. Below you will find descriptions of LSC's services and publications.

Key Services

Drafting Legislation. The LSC staff drafts bills, resolutions, and amendments upon the request of any member or staff of the General Assembly. All bill, resolution, and amendment requests are confidential. ORD staff members fulfill the majority of drafting requests while LBO staff members are responsible for appropriation-related drafting requests.

Staffing Committees. LSC assists each standing committee or subcommittee of the General Assembly. In addition to attending all hearings, ORD and LBO committee staffers assist all members of a committee in drafting bills (including substitutes) and amendments, explaining what a pending bill or amendment does and its potential fiscal effect, and researching questions related to pending legislation.

Budget & Fiscal Analysis. LBO budget analysts and economists monitor, forecast, and report on state revenues and expenditures and provide members and staff of the General Assembly with independent information about the state budget and other important fiscal issues in state and local government. Additionally, LBO staff members review requests coming before the Controlling Board, which oversees the release or transfer of appropriated funds and authorizes certain state agency purchases.

Legal, Fiscal, and Technical Research. Upon request, LSC provides confidential research on matters of legislative concern to any member or staff of the General Assembly. Research responses range from brief telephone calls and short email answers to in-depth research papers on legal, fiscal, and technical issues.

Drafting Honorary Resolutions and Letters. The LSC staff produces, upon request, honorary resolutions, letters of commendation, and condolence letters for members of the General Assembly to honor their constituents. Confidentiality does not apply to this service.

Major Publications

Bill Analysis. One of the two major LSC supporting documents for a bill. It explains the contents of the bill. The ORD staff prepares an analysis in time for each bill's first committee hearing and updates the analysis as the bill advances throughout the legislative process. Analyses do not present arguments for or against a bill, nor do they describe the political implications surrounding the bill.

Fiscal Note and Local Impact Statement. The other major LSC supporting document for a bill. It provides estimates of the direct fiscal impact of proposed legislation on state and local governments. The LBO staff prepares a fiscal note and local impact statement in time for each bill's second hearing and updates it at each stage of the legislative process.

Budget Documents. The LSC staff assists the legislature in preparing and analyzing the state's operating and capital budget bills. As a budget bill progresses, the staff drafts and tracks amendments and prepares updated documents, such as analyses, revenue forecasts, budgets in brief, and the Catalog of Budget Line Items. Two documents that compare different versions of an operating budget are the Appropriation Spreadsheet and Comparison Document. The former tracks line item appropriation changes. The latter tracks other codified and uncodified language changes.

Online Codes. LSC is the official publisher of the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Administrative Code. The Codes are published online at codes.ohio.gov. LSC also publishes the online Register of Ohio at registerofohio.state.oh.us.

Additional Services and Publications

- New Member Orientation
- Legislative Fellowship Program
- New Legislative Staff Training
- Continuing Legal Education Programs
- Library Services
- Legislative Information Office
- A Guidebook for Ohio Legislators
- Members Briefs
- Budget Footnotes
- Ohio Facts
- Infographics
- State Spending by County
- Catalog of Budget Line Items
- School Funding Resources
- Medicaid Primer
- Digest of Enactments
- Occupational Regulation Report

Access LSC Documents

LSC budget documents and other general reference publications are available on LSC's website: lsc.ohio.gov. LSC bill analyses and fiscal notes are available on the General Assembly's website: legislature.ohio.gov

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