

- Financial disclosure filing fees increased by \$15 for all filers

Ethics Commission

Jonathan Lee, Budget Analyst

ROLE

The Ohio Ethics Commission (ETH) administers, interprets, and enforces ethical conduct in government under Ohio Ethics Law. The Commission promotes and enforces ethical conduct throughout state and local government through impartial and responsive education, advice, investigation, and financial disclosure processes. To fulfill its role, the Commission has improved educational and informational access to thousands of public servants to create a baseline understanding of Ethics Law.

Agency In Brief					
Number of Employees*	Total Appropriations-All Funds		GRF Appropriations		Appropriation Bill(s)
	2004	2005	2004	2005	
19	\$1.7 million	\$1.7 million	\$1.3 million	\$1.4 million	Am. Sub. H.B. 95

*Employee head count obtained from the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) payroll reports as of June 28, 2003.

OVERVIEW

The Commission's FY 2004-2005 total biennial appropriations increased 4% from FY 2002-2003 total biennial adjusted appropriations. Overall, funding will allow the Commission to fill one of two vacant Advisory Attorney positions in order to maintain current service levels. Positions that will remain unfilled include an Advisory Attorney, an Ethics Special Investigator, and a contract Hearing Officer. Also, funding will not allow the Commission to complete database upgrades and begin their on-line financial disclosure filing initiative.

BUDGET ISSUES

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FILING FEES

Effective January 1, 2004, Am. Sub. H.B. 95 increased financial disclosure filing fees to \$15 for all filers. The fee increases are estimated to generate \$150,000 in additional revenue per fiscal year, which will keep the operating fund solvent with current spending levels. The bill also increased the late filing penalty to \$10 per day instead of one-half the applicable filing fee and increased the maximum fine amount from \$100 to \$250. The Commission will use the fee revenue as a supplemental source of fee revenue to support ongoing education, advisory, and compliance efforts. 

FY 2004 - 2005 Final Appropriation Amounts

All Fund Group

<i>Line Item Detail by Agency</i>	<i>FY 2001:</i>	<i>FY 2002:</i>	<i>FY 2003:</i>	<i>FY 2004 Appropriations:</i>	<i>% Change 2003 to 2004:</i>	<i>FY 2005 Appropriations:</i>	<i>% Change 2004 to 2005:</i>
Report For: Main Operating Appropriations Bill		Version: Enacted					
<i>ETH Ethics Commission</i>							
GRF 146-321 Operating Expenses	\$ 1,301,331	\$ 1,250,194	\$1,251,362	\$ 1,286,869	2.84%	\$ 1,351,213	5.00%
General Revenue Fund Total	\$ 1,301,331	\$ 1,250,194	\$ 1,251,362	\$ 1,286,869	2.84%	\$ 1,351,213	5.00%
4M6 146-601 Operating Expenses	\$ 293,786	\$ 391,955	\$404,444	\$ 409,543	1.26%	\$ 383,543	-6.35%
General Services Fund Group Total	\$ 293,786	\$ 391,955	\$ 404,444	\$ 409,543	1.26%	\$ 383,543	-6.35%
<i>Ethics Commission Total</i>	\$ 1,595,117	\$ 1,642,149	\$ 1,655,806	\$ 1,696,412	2.45%	\$ 1,734,756	2.26%