

- Licensed 4,584 professionals in FY 2002
- Received Controlling Board approval to increase optician renewal fees by 50% in FY 2004

# Optical Dispensers Board, Ohio

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## ROLE

The Ohio Optical Dispensers Board was established in 1979 to maintain standards in the industry through the issuance of spectacle, contact lens, and ocularist licenses. The Board seeks to maintain industry standards by establishing licensure requirements for people entering these fields. In addition to licensing opticians, ocularists, and apprentices, the Board is responsible for establishing continuing education requirements and investigating complaints, taking disciplinary action as necessary.

Agency In Brief					
Number of Employees*	Total Appropriations-All Funds		GRF Appropriations		Appropriation Bill(s)
	2004	2005	2004	2005	
12	\$307,000	\$313,000	\$0	\$0	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 Ohio Optical Dispensers Board is appropriated \$307,096 in FY 2004, which represents an increase of 7.4% over FY 2003 expenditures. For FY 2005, the Board is appropriated \$312,656, which represents a 1.8% increase over FY 2004. The appropriations provide for current service levels to be maintained and cover increased administrative costs passed on to the Board. No new initiatives are planned with the funding except for the implementation of the new licensing system.

## BUDGET ISSUES

### *FEE CHANGES*

The Board instituted many cost control measures to balance expenditures and revenue during the previous biennium. For example, staff used desktop publishing software instead of contracting for the service. The Board Director changed the overtime status of the board director's position to overtime exempt. And travel expenses were scrutinized and only necessary trips were authorized. However, despite these efforts, the Board was unable to cover incurred costs with generated revenue. Consequently, the Board received Controlling Board approval to raise optician fees by 50% from \$65.00 to \$97.50. This fee increase will take effect in FY 2004. The fee change will generate approximately \$109,000 in additional revenue in FY 2004 and annually thereafter.

### ***NEW LICENSING SYSTEM***

The occupational licensing boards, in partnership with the Department of Administrative Services (DAS), are working to implement a new licensing system. The system will be phased in over the current biennium and each board will pay its share of the costs out of Fund 4K9. The Board will pay DAS an annual fee of \$1,296 in the current biennium and a monthly charge of \$97 in FY 2004 and \$101 in FY 2005 to maintain the system.

### ***INCREASED ADMINISTRATIVE FEES***

During the previous biennium, occupational licensing boards absorbed increased administrative costs charged by other state agencies. Many boards contracted for services that were once provided for free such as lock-box services and computer technical support. Increases in the DAS Central Service fees and postage have also significantly raised occupational boards' expenditures. The Optical Dispenser's Board's Central Service Agency assessment increased 68% from \$5,694 in FY 2002 to \$9,569 in FY 2003 and will increase another 5% in both FY 2004 and FY 2005. The Management Information Services fee increased by 150% between FY 2001 and FY 2002 and the Board projects a 21% increase for FYs 2003-2005. The Board was charged \$2,524 in FY 2003 for computer technical support, which once was provided by DAS. This fee will increase by approximately 5% in both FYs 2004 and 2005. The Board also estimates a 4% rent increase in FY 2004. 

**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>
<b>Report For: Main Operating Appropriations Bill</b>		<b>Version: Enacted</b>					
<b>ODB Optical Dispensers Board, Ohio</b>							
4K9 894-609 Operating Expenses	\$ 249,867	\$ 284,642	\$285,916	\$ 307,096	7.41%	\$ 312,656	1.81%
<b>General Services Fund Group Total</b>	<b>\$ 249,867</b>	<b>\$ 284,642</b>	<b>\$ 285,916</b>	<b>\$ 307,096</b>	<b>7.41%</b>	<b>\$ 312,656</b>	<b>1.81%</b>
<b>Optical Dispensers Board, Ohio Total</b>	<b>\$ 249,867</b>	<b>\$ 284,642</b>	<b>\$ 285,916</b>	<b>\$ 307,096</b>	<b>7.41%</b>	<b>\$ 312,656</b>	<b>1.81%</b>