

LSC Greenbook

Analysis of the Enacted Budget

Ohio Ethics Commission

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

OVERVIEW	1
Agency Overview.....	1
Appropriation Overview	1
ANALYSIS OF ENACTED BUDGET	3
Operating Expenses (GRF line item 146321, GSF line item 146601).....	3

ATTACHMENT:

Budget Spreadsheet By Line Item

Ohio Ethics Commission

- Funding mix: 69% GRF/31% non-GRF
- Financial disclosure fees to finance larger budget share
- Staffing and service levels to be maintained

OVERVIEW

Agency Overview

The Ohio Ethics Commission administers, interprets, and enforces ethical conduct in state and local government, primarily under the Ohio Ethics Law (R.C. Chapter 102.). It has jurisdiction over all state and local government officials and employees, except legislators, judges, and their staffs.

The Ethics Commission consists of six members who are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The political affiliation of the Commission is equally divided between the two major parties. Members are compensated \$75 for each meeting, up to a maximum of \$1,800 per year. Day-to-day operations are handled by the Executive Director and 20 full-time employees.

Appropriation Overview

Table 1 below summarizes the Commission's budget for the FY 2014-FY 2015 biennium in comparison to FY 2013 actual expenditures.

Fund Group	FY 2013*	FY 2014	% change, FY 2013-FY 2014	FY 2015	% change, FY 2014-FY 2015
General Revenue	\$1,412,786	\$1,409,751	-0.2%	\$1,381,556	-2.0%
General Services	\$428,607	\$636,388	48.5%	\$641,000	0.7%
State Special Revenue	\$91,772	\$0	-100.0%	\$0	0.0%
TOTAL	\$1,933,165	\$2,046,139	5.8%	\$2,022,556	-1.2%

*FY 2013 figures represent actual expenditures.

For FY 2014, the budget appropriates a total of \$2,046,139, which represents an increase of \$112,974, or 5.8%, from the Commission's FY 2013 actual expenditures totaling \$1,933,165. For FY 2015, the budget appropriates a total of \$2,022,556, which represents a decrease of \$23,583, or 1.2%, from the FY 2014 appropriation. Under the budget, the split between the Commission's GRF and non-GRF funding streams will be 69%/31%, with the latter amount appropriated from money generated by financial disclosure filing fees and deposited in the General Services Fund Group. Unlike the

preceding biennium, the budget does not appropriate any money from the Casino Control Commission Fund (Fund 5HS0), a fund in the State Special Revenue Fund Group, to support the Commission's casino-related duties. The costs of those duties will be paid for with other moneys appropriated for the Commission's use during the FY 2014-FY 2015 biennium.

ANALYSIS OF ENACTED BUDGET

Summarized in Table 2 below are the appropriations for the two line items that will be used to pay for the Commission's FY 2014-FY 2015 biennial operating expenses. The table is followed by a narrative describing how each appropriated amount will be used.

Table 2. Ethics Commission Appropriations				
Fund	ALI and Name		FY 2014	FY 2015
General Revenue Fund (GRF)				
GRF	146321	Operating Expenses	\$1,409,751	\$1,381,556
General Services Fund (GSF) Group				
4M60	146601	Operating Expenses	\$636,388	\$641,000
Total Funding: Ethics Commission			\$2,046,139	\$2,022,556

Operating Expenses (GRF line item 146321, GSF line item 146601)

These two line items fund all of the Commission's operations, which include oversight of Ohio's ethics laws dealing with financial disclosure, conducting investigations, providing advisory opinions, and offering education on ethics issues to public officials. The GRF line item will also be used to support the Commission's casino-related duties which include providing written and oral guidance to the Casino Control Commission, conducting ethics-related educational sessions, reviewing allegations for ethics law violations, and conducting investigations, if warranted.

The appropriated funding level for those two line items should be sufficient for the Commission to maintain existing staffing and service levels, including the payroll costs of 21 full-time staff. Around 90% of the Commission's total funding in each of FY 2014 and FY 2015 is likely to be allocated for personal services (salaries, wages, fringe benefits, and other payroll charges). The remainder will be allocated for other operating expenses, items such as supplies and maintenance and purchased personal services.

Under the budget, the GRF line item will cover about 69% of the Commission's total annual operating costs; the GSF line item will cover the remainder, or about 31%. The GSF line item's appropriation is supported by revenues derived from disclosure filing fees, late filing fees, and in some cases, court-ordered restitution to help defray the cost of certain investigations.

FY 2014 - FY 2015 Final Appropriation Amounts

All Fund Groups

Line Item Detail by Agency

			FY 2012	FY 2013	Appropriation FY 2014	FY 2013 to FY 2014 % Change	Appropriation FY 2015	FY 2014 to FY 2015 % Change
Report For Main Operating Appropriations Bill			Version: Enacted					
ETH Ethics Commission								
GRF	146321	Operating Expenses	\$ 1,305,222	\$ 1,412,786	\$ 1,409,751	-0.21%	\$ 1,381,556	-2.00%
General Revenue Fund Total			\$ 1,305,222	\$ 1,412,786	\$ 1,409,751	-0.21%	\$ 1,381,556	-2.00%
4M60	146601	Operating Expenses	\$ 520,677	\$ 428,607	\$ 636,388	48.48%	\$ 641,000	0.72%
General Services Fund Group Total			\$ 520,677	\$ 428,607	\$ 636,388	48.48%	\$ 641,000	0.72%
5HS0	146602	Casino Investigation	\$ 15,812	\$ 91,772	\$ 0	-100.00%	\$ 0	N/A
State Special Revenue Fund Group Total			\$ 15,812	\$ 91,772	\$ 0	-100.00%	\$ 0	N/A
Ethics Commission Total			\$ 1,841,711	\$ 1,933,165	\$ 2,046,139	5.84%	\$ 2,022,556	-1.15%