

LSC Greenbook

Analysis of the Enacted Budget

Ohio Expositions Commission

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Ohio Expositions Commission

- Appropriations of \$14.0 million in FY 2014 and \$13.4 million in FY 2015
- Over 95.0% of funding for the biennium comes from revenues generated by the State Fair and other events

OVERVIEW

Agency Overview

The Ohio Expositions Commission (EXP) is responsible for producing the annual Ohio State Fair with an emphasis on promoting Ohio's agricultural industry and youth education in the agricultural field. The Commission also holds many public events throughout the year at the 360-acre Ohio Expo Center, located in Columbus. The Commission is governed by a 13-member board, consisting of nine gubernatorial appointees, the directors of Development and Agriculture, and chairs of the House of Representatives and Senate standing committees dealing with agricultural issues. As of June 2013, EXP employs 57 full-time permanent staff, about two-thirds of whom are maintenance personnel. In addition to the permanent staff, the Commission hires a substantial number of temporary seasonal workers, about 600 annually for the State Fair, and about 90 for the other nonfair events held at the Expo Center.

Appropriation Overview

Table 1 shows the FY 2014-FY 2015 appropriations for EXP contained in H.B. 59. The amount appropriated for FY 2014 is just over \$14.0 million, nearly 5.0% above FY 2013 spending of about \$13.4 million. The FY 2015 appropriation is \$13.4 million, a decrease of approximately 4.8% when compared to the FY 2014 appropriation. Overall, nearly 95.7% of the Commission's biennial budget is supported by revenues from both State Fair and nonfair events. The remaining 4.3% of funding comes from the GRF. Of the GRF portion, \$250,000 in each fiscal year is used to subsidize the Junior Fair portion of the Ohio State Fair, while \$670,000 in FY 2014 is budgeted for facilities construction planning purposes.

Fund Group	FY 2013*	FY 2014	% change	FY 2015	% change
General Revenue	\$320,494	\$920,000	187.1%	\$250,000	-72.8%
State Special Revenue	\$13,067,006	\$13,129,000	.47%	\$13,129,000	0%
TOTAL	\$13,387,500	\$14,049,000	4.9%	\$13,379,000	-4.8%

*FY 2013 totals represent actual expenditures.

Key Budget Provisions

New Expositions Support Fund Established

H.B. 59 establishes the Ohio Expositions Support Fund to provide an additional means of funding to cover the cost of events hosted by the Commission. Specifically, the act allows the Commission to accept gifts of money, land, or other property from private parties or political subdivisions as permitted by law. This allows corporate entities to sponsor items at the State Fair through direct donations without having to do so through a charitable arm of the company or some other nonprofit entity.

Additional GRF Funding for Construction Planning

In recent years, EXP has been following through on a master plan to improve the grounds and facilities at the Expo Center. Most recently, H.B. 482 of the 129th General Assembly, the capital budget for the FY 2013-FY 2014 biennium, provided \$7.5 million for electrical upgrades, general facility improvements, and emergency repairs at the fairgrounds. EXP subsequently received GRF funding of \$1.0 million in FY 2013 under H.B. 487 of the 129th General Assembly to be used for construction planning purposes. Approximately \$70,000 of this appropriation was used in FY 2013. H.B. 59 appropriates \$670,000 in FY 2014 for additional construction planning activities.

ANALYSIS OF ENACTED BUDGET

Appropriations for the Ohio Expositions Commission				
Fund	ALI and Name		FY 2014	FY 2015
General Revenue Fund				
GRF	723403	Junior Fair Subsidy	\$250,000	\$250,000
GRF	723501	Construction Planning	\$670,000	\$0
<i>General Revenue Fund Subtotal</i>			\$920,000	\$250,000
State Special Revenue Fund Group				
4N20	723602	Ohio State Fair Harness Racing	\$235,000	\$235,000
5060	723601	Operating Expenses	\$12,894,000	\$12,894,000
<i>State Special Revenue Fund Group Subtotal</i>			\$13,129,000	\$13,129,000
Total Funding: Ohio Expositions Commission			\$14,049,000	\$13,379,000

Junior Fair Subsidy (723403)

This GRF line item is used to support the Junior Fair portion of the Ohio State Fair, which includes premium payments to participants, payments for judges, meals, and lodging for the All Ohio State Fair Band and Choir, and other related costs. According to EXP, the Junior Fair portion of the 2012 Ohio State Fair cost approximately \$750,000. The budget provides \$250,000 in both FY 2014 and FY 2015 and matches the amount spent on this subsidy in FY 2013. Any costs that exceed this amount are paid from the Expositions Fund (Fund 5060), the principal source of funding for the Commission's operations.

Construction Planning (723501)

The budgeted amount for this GRF line item is \$670,000 in FY 2014. The purpose of this funding item is to pay for professional services related to facility planning, including architectural engineering, land or facility use consulting, and facility construction. Uncodified law associated with the line item allows for the unexpended and unencumbered amount of the appropriation remaining at the end of FY 2014 to be reappropriated for the same uses in FY 2015. FY 2013 expenditures from this line item totaled \$70,494.

Ohio State Fair Harness Racing (723602)

This line item is used to pay cash awards for harness races held in conjunction with the State Fair. The Ohio State Fair Harness Racing Fund (Fund 4N20) is a pass-through fund which holds entry fee receipts for the harness races collected by the Commission. These amounts are then disbursed to Scioto Downs, where these races are

held. The budget provides \$235,000 in each fiscal year of the biennium for cash awards, an increase of 3.5% compared to FY 2013 expenditures of \$227,169 for this purpose.

Operating Expenses (723601)

The funding for appropriation item 723601, Operating Expenses, is approximately \$12.9 million in both FY 2014 and FY 2015, less than 1.0% more than FY 2013 spending of \$12.8 million. This line item is used to pay all expenses related to operations at the Expo Center. Also, any additional expenses for the Junior Fair portion of the State Fair in excess of the \$250,000 GRF subsidy for that purpose will be covered by funding provided in this line item.

The Ohio Expositions Fund (Fund 5060) is comprised of fees charged during the annual State Fair, as well as for nonfair events. Income is derived from space rentals, exhibit entries, admissions, parking, and other such sources. Nonfair revenues consist of charges for building rentals, parking, and concession income from the 155 or so events held at the Expo Center throughout the year. Overall, calendar year 2012 receipts from the State Fair and nonfair events totaled \$13.5 million. Of that amount, \$8.0 million (59.3%) was derived from the 2012 State Fair.

Uncodified law included in H.B. 59 allows the General Manager of the Expositions Commission, in consultation with the Director of Budget and Management, to submit a request to the Controlling Board to use available amounts in the State Fair Reserve Fund (Fund 6400) if revenues from either the 2013 or 2014 Ohio State Fair are unexpectedly low. As of August 2013, the available cash balance in Fund 6400 was \$125,337.

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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					
EXP Expositions Commission								
GRF	723403	Junior Fair Subsidy	\$ 249,393	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	0.00%	\$ 250,000	0.00%
GRF	723501	Construction Planning	\$ 0	\$ 70,494	\$ 670,000	850.44%	\$ 0	-100.00%
General Revenue Fund Total			\$ 249,393	\$ 320,494	\$ 920,000	187.06%	\$ 250,000	-72.83%
4N20	723602	Ohio State Fair Harness Racing	\$ 242,954	\$ 227,169	\$ 235,000	3.45%	\$ 235,000	0.00%
5060	723601	Operating Expenses	\$ 13,108,225	\$ 12,839,837	\$ 12,894,000	0.42%	\$ 12,894,000	0.00%
State Special Revenue Fund Group Total			\$ 13,351,179	\$ 13,067,006	\$ 13,129,000	0.47%	\$ 13,129,000	0.00%
Expositions Commission Total			\$ 13,600,572	\$ 13,387,500	\$ 14,049,000	4.94%	\$ 13,379,000	-4.77%