

- Financial disclosure filing fees increased from \$10 to \$25 for lobbyists
- Late filing fees now imposed on executive lobbyists instead of only legislative lobbyists

Legislative Ethics Committee, Joint

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ROLE

The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee (JLEC) was established to monitor the compliance with Ohio Ethics Law as it applies to the legislative branch. The Committee is authorized to interpret and enforce the Ethics Law's provisions, receive and review financial disclosure statements, and render advisory opinions on ethical issues raised by officials and employees of the General Assembly. The Committee's staff is known as the Office of the Legislative Inspector General (OLIG) and is responsible for the actual implementation of the provisions of the ethics and lobbying laws and administers legislative agent registrations and filings.

Agency In Brief					
Number of Employees*	Total Appropriations-All Funds		GRF Appropriations		Appropriation Bill(s)
	2004	2005	2004	2005	
6	\$550,000	\$550,000	\$550,000	\$550,000	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 Committee's fiscal year (FY) 2004-2005 total appropriations decreased 1% from FY 2002-2003 total adjusted appropriations. Overall, funding will allow the OLIG to maintain salaries and fringe benefits, and pay office rent, supplies, operations, and computer expenses. Current staff levels will be maintained throughout the biennium with no anticipation of additions. The Office of the Legislative Inspector General will continue to register lobbyists, issue advisory and written opinions, investigate complaints, conduct ethics training sessions, and provide all lobbying information on-line. Over the biennium, the Committee will evaluate the process of optical character recognition as a data entry medium and the institution of on-line filing of information by lobbyists.

BUDGET ISSUES

FUND ELIMINATION

Am. Sub. H.B. 95 eliminated JLEC's appropriation item, 028-601, Joint Legislative Ethics Committee, in the State Special Revenue Fund Group. Prior to the elimination of this fund, the cash balance was approximately \$224,000. On July 1, 2003, 50% of the cash balance, or approximately \$112,000, was

transferred to the GRF. On July 1, 2004, the remaining cash balance will be transferred to the GRF. This fund was supported by lobbyist financial disclosure filing fees.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FILING FEES

Am. Sub. H.B. 95 increased the financial disclosure fees from \$10 to \$25 for each legislative lobbyist and their employer. This fee increase is estimated to generate approximately \$50,000 per year in additional revenue. All revenue collected from the filing fees will be deposited into the GRF instead of the former Joint Legislative Ethics Committee Fund.

Am. Sub. H.B. 95 also imposes a late financial disclosure filing fee of \$12.50 per day up to \$100 for executive agency lobbyists and their employers. Previously, the OLIG only had the legal authority to impose a late filing fee upon legislative agency lobbyists and their employers. 

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					
JLE Joint Legislative Ethics Committee							
GRF 028-321 Legislative Ethics Committee	\$ 446,995	\$ 415,492	\$441,551	\$ 550,000	24.56%	\$ 550,000	0.00%
General Revenue Fund Total	\$ 446,995	\$ 415,492	\$ 441,551	\$ 550,000	24.56%	\$ 550,000	0.00%
4G7 028-601 Joint Legislative Ethics Committee	\$ 46,052	\$ 26,305	\$33,316	---	N/A	---	N/A
State Special Revenue Fund Group Total	\$ 46,052	\$ 26,305	\$ 33,316	----	N/A	----	N/A
Joint Legislative Ethics Committee Total	\$ 493,046	\$ 441,797	\$ 474,867	\$ 550,000	15.82%	\$ 550,000	0.00%