

LSC Greenbook

Analysis of the Enacted Budget

Judicial Conference of Ohio

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ATTACHMENT:

Budget Spreadsheet By Line Item

Judicial Conference of Ohio

- GRF funding decreased by 11%
- Staffing and service levels likely to be maintained
- No moneys earmarked for State Council of Uniform State Laws

OVERVIEW

Duties and Responsibilities

The Judicial Conference of Ohio is a statutory entity within the judicial branch of state government created by the General Assembly in 1963 to continually study and recommend changes in the procedures and practices of Ohio's court system in an effort to promote a fair and effective administration of justice.¹

The Conference consists of all 722 active judges in Ohio, as well as six judicial associations. The general charge of the Conference's affairs rests with judges who serve on the Executive Committee, which is comprised of approximately 40 members.

The Conference has 10 staff members, including an executive director who is appointed by the officers of the Executive Committee. Conference staff provide administrative and research support for more than 20 permanent and *ad hoc* committees that involve over 200 judges. While judges serving on committees receive no compensation for services rendered to the Conference, judges may receive reimbursement for reasonable and necessary expenses.

Appropriation Overview

Table 1 below summarizes the Conference's budget by fund group.

Table 1. Agency Appropriations by Fund Group, FY 2010-FY 2011					
Fund Group	FY 2009*	FY 2010	% change, FY 2009-FY 2010	FY 2011	% change, FY 2010-FY 2011
General Revenue	\$898,610	\$800,000	-11.0%	\$800,000	0.00%
General Services	\$332,420	\$350,000	5.3%	\$350,000	0.00%
TOTALS	\$1,231,030	\$1,150,000	-6.6%	\$1,150,000	0.00%

*Actual expenditures in FY 2009.

Most notably, the budget provides a GRF appropriation of \$800,000 for each of FYs 2010 and 2011, an amount that is 11%, or \$98,610, less than the Conference's FY 2009 GRF expenditures totaling \$898,610. That said, it would appear that the

¹ The Conference's primary duties and responsibilities are codified in section 105.91 of the Revised Code.

Conference will be able to more or less maintain its FY 2009 service and activity levels, including covering the payroll costs of ten full-time permanent staff.

State Council of Uniform State Laws²

No moneys are earmarked for the purpose of paying for expenses associated with the State Council of Uniform State Laws. For a number of years, certain costs associated with the Council have been paid from moneys earmarked for this purpose in the Conference's GRF budget. The earmarked amount was primarily to pay the annual membership dues for Ohio's delegation in relation to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. The Ohio members are eligible for state reimbursement of expenses in the performance of their duties and responsibilities but receive no other form of compensation.

² The council is a four-member state entity established by section 105.21 of the Revised Code. Its duties are to collect and digest data concerning the prevailing law in the United States and other countries, upon special subjects where uniformity is important, and to ascertain the best means to effect uniformity upon such subjects in the laws of the various states of the United States.

ANALYSIS OF ENACTED BUDGET

Table 2 below shows the line items that will be used to pay for the Conference's costs of doing business during the FY 2010-FY 2011 biennium. It is then followed by a narrative describing how each appropriated amount will be used.

Table 2. Appropriations for the Judicial Conference				
Fund	ALI and Name		FY 2010	FY 2011
General Revenue Fund (GRF)				
GRF	018321	Operating Expenses	\$800,000	\$800,000
General Services Fund (GSF) Group				
4030	018601	Ohio Jury Instructions	\$350,000	\$350,000
Total Funding: Judicial Conference			\$1,150,000	\$1,150,000

Operating Expenses (GRF line item 018321)

GRF line item 018321, Operating Expenses, is the Conference's primary source of funding. The day-to-day operations are largely paid out of this line item. The budget provides the Conference with a GRF appropriation of \$800,000 in each of FYs 2010 and 2011, an 11% decrease from its FY 2009 total GRF expenditure of \$898,610. It would appear, however, that, although its level of GRF funding is reduced, the Conference will be able to more or less continue services and activities equal to the FY 2009 level. Also of note is that, unlike prior biennial budgets, no GRF moneys are earmarked for expenses associated with the State Council of Uniform State Laws.

Ohio Jury Instructions (GSF line item 018601)

GSF line item 018601, Ohio Jury Instructions, draws its appropriation from revenue receipts consisting of membership dues, annual meeting fees, and royalties from the Conference's publication known as *Ohio Jury Instructions*. The line item's appropriation is used to support the work of the Conference's *ad hoc* and permanent committees and to conduct workshops and special projects. The line item's appropriation of \$350,000 for each of FYs 2010 and 2011 should be sufficient to maintain the level of services and activities it financed in FY 2009.

FY 2010 - 2011 Final Appropriation Amounts

All Fund Groups

<i>Line Item Detail by Agency</i>			<i>FY 2008</i>	<i>FY 2009</i>	<i>FY 2010</i>	<i>% Change</i>	<i>FY 2011</i>	<i>% Change</i>
					<i>Appropriations</i>	<i>FY09 - FY10</i>	<i>Appropriations</i>	<i>FY10 - FY11</i>
<i>Report For: Main Operating Appropriations Bill</i>			<i>Version: Enacted</i>					
<i>JCO Judicial Conference of Ohio</i>								
GRF	018321	Operating Expenses	\$ 915,518	\$ 898,610	\$ 800,000	-10.97%	\$ 800,000	0.00%
General Revenue Fund Total			\$ 915,518	\$ 898,610	\$ 800,000	-10.97%	\$ 800,000	0.00%
4030	018601	Ohio Jury Instructions	\$ 316,177	\$ 332,420	\$ 350,000	5.29%	\$ 350,000	0.00%
General Services Fund Group Total			\$ 316,177	\$ 332,420	\$ 350,000	5.29%	\$ 350,000	0.00%
<i>Judicial Conference of Ohio Total</i>			<i>\$ 1,231,694</i>	<i>\$ 1,231,030</i>	<i>\$ 1,150,000</i>	<i>-6.58%</i>	<i>\$ 1,150,000</i>	<i>0.00%</i>