

Ohio Ambulance Licensing Board Overview

The Ambulance Licensing Board is responsible for the identification, inspection, and licensure of 136 private ambulance services and approximately 1057 vehicles that are operated by those services. Private ambulance services include: commercial for-profit ambulance services, funeral homes that provide patient transport, and hospital based mobile intensive care units (MoICUs). While the number of service providers has decreased due to the acquisition of very small business operations by larger operations, the number of ambulances has remained stable due to an increasing demand for transport services.

The Board sustains its operations through annual license fees paid by private ambulance companies and by a percentage of revenue received as a result of violations of the state's seat belt law. The passage of SB 245 in FY 2000 and the reduction of the license renewal period from biennial to annual have produced a leveling effect in revenues received from license fees. License fees collected annually combined with revenue collected from 2% of seat belt fines will fund the board's appropriations in FY 2002-2003.

In November 2000, the Ambulance Licensing Board directorship was assumed by a new director.

ADDITIONAL FACTS AND FIGURES

| Ohio Ambulance Licensing Board Staffing Levels | | | | | | |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Program Series/Division | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | Estimated | |
| | | | | | 2001 | 2002 |
| Board Members | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Administrative Staff | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Executive Director | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Totals | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 |

The Board also employs a part time deputy chief inspector and 26 field inspectors who are paid based on a per call contract.

Current License Fees

The license renewal cycle has changed from biennial to annual beginning in 1999. The current fees for an initial or renewal ambulance company license is \$100 per year for the service company and \$100 per vehicle per year, unless they are in one of the 50% municipal areas.

Fiscal Operation – Historical, Current, and Estimated

The members of the Ohio Ambulance Licensing Board and the staff reviewed the Core Budget Levels proposed by the Office of Budget and Management for the next biennium (FY 2002-2003) on July 18, 2000 and determined these levels to be sufficient to provide a level of operation that meets or exceeds the legislative mandate set forth in Chapter 4766 (Ambulance Licensing Law) of the Ohio Revised Code.

It is anticipated that if legislation is passed that requires the licensing of ambulettes, and therefore creates an increase in revenue and costs for the Ohio Ambulance Licensing Board, a fee structure of not more than \$100 per service and a fixed rate of \$25 per ambulette would produce revenue to cover the costs of inspection and licensing. The Ambulance Licensing Board would be required to complete the inspection and licensing of all wheelchair ambulette services operating in Ohio. Revenues and costs to the board associated with passage of this bill remain unknown at this time because neither the Association nor Medicaid have a complete or accurate count of the number of ambulette services or vehicles that would require inspection and licensure.

Revenue Sources and Available Cash

The following table displays historical, current, and estimated fiscal operation of the board based upon the current fee and licensure structure. This data does not reveal an increase in revenue or costs from the proposed ambulette licensing.

| | <i>Historical Activity</i> | <i>Historical Activity</i> | <i>Historical Activity</i> | <i>Historical Activity</i> | | <i>Current Activity</i> | <i>Estimated Activity</i> | <i>Estimated Activity</i> |
|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Fund Activity | FY1997 | FY1998 | FY1999 | FY2000 | | FY2001 | FY2002 | FY2003 |
| Available Cash | \$242,588 | \$199,664 | \$236,194 | \$93,728 | | \$80,165 | \$79,445 | \$73,401 |
| License Fees | 20,900 | 115,300 | \$25,000 | \$119,000 | | \$120,350 | \$120,350 | \$120,350 |
| Seat Belt Fines | \$113,026 | \$110,266 | \$50,000 | \$106,000 | | \$114,500 | \$114,500 | \$114,500 |
| Total Resources | \$376,514 | \$425,230 | \$311,194 | \$318,728 | | \$315,015 | \$314,295 | \$308,251 |
| Disbursements | \$176,850 | \$189,036 | \$217,466 | \$238,563 | | \$235,570 | \$240,894 | \$245,931 |

ANALYSIS OF EXECUTIVE PROPOSAL

Ohio Ambulance Licensing Board

Purpose Inspects and licenses all private ambulance services and their vehicles

The following table shows the line items that are used to fund this program series, as well as the Governor's recommended funding levels.

| Fund | ALI | Title | FY 2002 | FY 2003 |
|--|---------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 4N1 | 915-601 | Operating Expenses | \$240,894 | \$251,255 |
| Total funding: Ohio Ambulance Licensing Board | | | | |

Ohio Ambulance Licensing Board

Program Description: In accordance with Section 4766 of the ORC, the Ohio Ambulance Licensing Board inspects and licenses all private ambulance services and the vehicles operated by these services within the state.

Funding Source: Funds for the Ohio Ambulance Licensing Board come from two sources, license fees and revenue from seat belt fines. The first source of revenue is **GSF Fund 4N1**, which is made up of fees paid by licensees. The second source is made up of ***fine revenue for the non-use of seat belts***. Prior to FY1998, the Ohio Ambulance Licensing Board received 2 percent of all seat belt fines. As part of Am. Sub. H.B. 215 of the 122nd General Assembly, this percentage was decreased to 1 percent for the FY1998/99 biennium only. As of July 1, 1999, this percentage was returned to 2 percent of all seat belt fine revenue.

Line Items: 915-601 Operating Expenses

Implication of the Executive Recommendation: The Executive has recommended the agency receive \$240,894 in FY2002 and \$251,255 in FY2003 to cover the board's operating costs. In the past, space was donated to the board through the Department of Public Safety, but rental costs in the amount of \$8488 per year are now part of the board's operating costs.

For FY2002, the executive recommendation represents an increase of \$5,324 or 2.3 percent over the FY2001 appropriation. For FY2003, the Executive has recommended an increase of \$10,361 or 4.3 percent from the FY2002 appropriation.

PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY LAW

This section describes permanent and temporary law provisions contained in the executive budget that will affect the department's activities and spending decisions during the next biennium.

Permanent Law Provisions

Reduction of the License Renewal Period from Two Years to One Year (ORC Section 4766.04(F))

The Ohio Ambulance Licensing Board currently renews licenses on an annual basis rather than the previous biennial basis. This change enables the Board to have a more consistent and steady fund stream.

Elimination of the 50% Reduction in Licensure and Permit Fees for Services Located within a Municipal Corporation that Conducts Inspections (ORC Section 4766.10)

This change would equalize the cost to all ambulance services operating in the state. Currently, ambulance services that are licensed and permitted by a municipal corporation pay only half of the fees levied by the state. The Ambulance Licensing Board performs the same inspections, licensing, and permitting functions for the companies located in these municipalities as it does for all the others in the state. There are ten municipalities that currently inspect private ambulance companies. Their licensing fees vary from \$5 to \$500 per year. Some municipalities charge companies for the number of vehicles that the company operates and the number of EMTs employed as well.

There are 29 licensed services with 230 ambulances that are located within the ten municipalities that charge additional fees. Changing this law would bring in an additional \$14,350 per biennium for the Ohio Ambulance Licensing Board. The following ten municipalities charge the additional inspection fee.

- 1) Akron [\$500 license, \$50 vehicle, \$20 EMT]
- 2) Canton [\$50 vehicle, \$10 EMT]
- 3) Cuyahoga Falls [\$100 license, \$25 vehicle, \$5 driver]
- 4) Lima [\$200 license, \$25 EMT]
- 5) Mansfield [\$25 annually for all]
- 6) Portsmouth [\$150 vehicle]
- 7) Steubenville [\$200 license per two years, \$20 EMT]
- 8) Stow [\$5 vehicle]
- 9) Toledo [\$75 application license, \$25 renewal fee license]
- 10) Zanesville [\$100 vehicle]

Eliminate the Provision of Free Rent (ORC Section 4766.02)

In the past and in accordance with Section 4766.02 of the ORC, the Division of Emergency Medical Services within the Department of Public Safety provided office space to the Ambulance Licensing Board free of charge. Through the elimination of this provision, the budget for the Ambulance Licensing Board more accurately reflects the true cost of operation. The Board currently occupies 684 square feet in the Department of Public Safety's Hilltop operation and pays \$8,085 annually, which includes utilities, to the Department of Public Safety.

Temporary Law Provisions

There are no temporary law provisions with fiscal effects on this agency.

REQUESTS NOT FUNDED

This agency has not requested any supplemental funding.

LSC Budget Spreadsheet by Line Item, FY 2002 - FY 2003

| <i>Fund</i> | <i>ALI</i> | <i>ALI Title</i> | <i>2000</i> | <i>Estimated 2001</i> | <i>Executive 2002</i> | <i>% Change 2001 to 2002</i> | <i>Executive 2003</i> | <i>% Change 2002 to 2003</i> |
|--|------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| AMB Ambulance Licensing Board | | | | | | | | |
| 4N1 | 915-601 | Operating Expenses | \$ 215,895 | \$235,570 | \$ 240,894 | 2.3% | \$ 251,255 | 4.3% |
| General Services Fund Group Total | | | \$ 215,895 | \$ 235,570 | \$ 240,894 | 2.3% | \$ 251,255 | 4.3% |
| Total All Budget Fund Groups | | | \$ 215,895 | \$ 235,570 | \$ 240,894 | 2.3% | \$ 251,255 | 4.3% |

General Services Fund Group

4N1 915-601 Operating Expenses

| 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 Estimate | 2002 Executive Proposal | 2003 Executive Proposal |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| \$188,990 | \$191,300 | \$215,895 | \$235,570 | \$240,894 | \$251,255 |
| | 1.2% | 12.9% | 9.1% | 2.3% | 4.3% |

Source: GSF: Prior to July 1, 1997 (FY 1998), up to 50 percent of the operating moneys were provided from two percent of the fine revenue for non-use of seat belts (ORC 4513.263)(E)(3)). In FY 1998 and FY 1999, the share was reduced to one percent for only that one year (Am. Sub. H.B. 215 of the 122nd General Assembly); but the share was returned to 2 percent on July 1, 1999 and continues at 2 percent. The balance of the operating moneys come from annual inspection fees and annual license fees charged to ambulance companies.

Legal Basis: ORC 4766.05 (originally established by Sub. S.B. 98 of the 119th G. A.)

Purpose: This appropriation supports the activities of the Ambulance Licensing Board, which includes the licensing and regulation of all private ambulance companies operating in the state. Funds in this line item are used to pay the Board's administrative costs, including payroll, maintenance, and equipment.