

Veterinary Medical Licensing Board

Senate Finance and Financial Institutions Committee

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Legislative Service Commission

April 23, 2003

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LSC Redbook
for the
Ohio Veterinary Medical
Licensing Board

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April 23, 2003

Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board

- Fee increases proposed
- Licenses 5,400 professional veterinarians and veterinary technicians

OVERVIEW

The Veterinary Board's mission is to insure that Ohio's citizens are served by professional and competent veterinarians and registered veterinary technicians. The Board serves a number of functions, including issuing licenses, providing examinations for licenses, approving continuing education courses, and investigating complaints. These powers are granted by Chapter 4741. of the Revised Code.

The Veterinary Board licenses biennially. For veterinarians, licenses are renewed in odd-numbered years. In FY 2001, there were approximately 3,700 licensed veterinarians. Registered veterinary technicians are licensed during even-numbered years. In FY 2002, there were 1,700 licensed veterinary technicians. The board also licenses veterinary specialists. This license is a one-time fee of \$50. The number of veterinary specialist licenses varies from year to year.

The Veterinary Board was recommended a budget of \$444,208 in FY 2004 and \$453,043 in FY 2005. The Executive also recommends a fee increase for veterinarians and registered veterinary technicians. These fee increases would generate an additional \$194,000 over the course of the biennium.

ANALYSIS OF EXECUTIVE PROPOSAL

Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board

Purpose: Licenses, enforces, and regulates the practice of veterinary medicine.

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 2004	FY 2005
4K9	888-609	Operating Expenses	\$444,208	\$453,043
Total funding: Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board				

Program Description: In accordance with Chapter 4741. of the Revised Code, the Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board issues licenses, provides examinations for licensure, approves continuing education courses, investigates complaints, performs compliance inspections of veterinary facilities, and networks with other state, federal, and local agencies that relate to veterinary medicine.

Funding Source: GSF Fund 4K9. Currently, all revenue from the 24 occupational licensing boards is placed in Fund 4K9 and then reallocated to each board. Each board must raise enough revenue through its license fees to cover its expenses.

Line Item: 888-609, Operating Expense

Implication of Recommendation: The executive recommendation includes an appropriation of \$444,208 in FY 2004. This allocation represents a decrease of 10.6% of estimated FY 2003 expenditures. For FY 2005, the Executive recommends an appropriation of \$453,043, which is an increase of 2.0% over FY 2004.

The Executive also recommends two fee increases. The budget increases the renewal fee of veterinarians from \$155 to \$200. The registration for registered veterinarian technicians is increased from \$35 to \$45. The executive recommendation, including the fee increases, should allow the Board to operate at current levels.

ADDITIONAL FACTS AND FIGURES

Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board Staffing Levels						
Program Series/Division	2000	2001	2002	2003	Estimated	
					2004	2005
Board Members	7	7	7	7	7	7
Administrative Staff	3	3	3	3	3	3
Investigator	1	1	0	0	0	0
Compliance Inspector	1	1	1	1	1	1
Totals	12	12	11	11	11	11

The Board Members receive payment for their time and expenses, which amounts to about one day of payment for each member per month. One of the administrative staff is a part-time clerk. The Board has recently contracted with the Department of Agriculture for investigative services. As a result, the investigator position is being phased out. The Board has a Compliance Inspector position that has been open for more than a year.

Licensing System

The Board is implementing a CAVU licensing system that will be in place this fall or early next year. This system will make licensing much more efficient as all licensing and disciplinary information will be stored in one place. The Cosmetology Board and Medical Board are the first in line for the new system.

License Fees

Below is a table detailing the fees for each license. Licenses are renewed biennially. The proposed renewal fee increases are also listed. These fees apply to those that have their renewal application postmarked no later than the first day of March. Veterinary Specialists do not renew their license, but they do pay an initial registration fee. The number of Veterinary Specialist licenses granted each year varies.

	Initial	Renewal	Proposed Renewal
Veterinarian	\$375	\$155	\$200
Registered Vet Technician	\$35	\$35	\$45
Veterinary Specialist	\$50	--	--

PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY LAW

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

Permanent Law Provisions

Renewal Fee Increase (R.C. section 4741.17)

This law change increases the biennial renewal fees currently paid by veterinarians and registered veterinary technicians. The fee increases will be used to support the operations of the Veterinary Board. The increase is from \$155 to \$200 for veterinarians and from \$35 to \$45 for registered veterinary technicians. This fee would apply to those veterinarians or registered veterinary technicians that have the renewal application postmarked before the first day of March. If a veterinarian or registered veterinary technician postmarks his or her renewal application after this date, the fees are higher. For renewal applications postmarked after the first day of March, but before the first day of April, the fees are currently \$225 and \$45, respectively. These fees would increase to \$275 for a veterinarian renewal and \$55 for a registered veterinary technician under this bill. A registered veterinary technician postmarking his or her renewal application after the first day of April would pay \$65 under this bill. Currently they pay \$60. If the number registering remains constant, this increase will result in additional revenue **each biennium** of approximately \$194,000 (including increased renewal fees and any increased penalty fees for applying after March 1).

REQUESTS NOT FUNDED

The Board did not have any supplemental requests. The Board did request \$496,731 in FYs 2004 and 2005 in core funding. The Executive recommended \$444,208 for FY 2004 and \$453,043 for FY 2005. However, the Board stated that the recommended funding levels, along with the fee increase, will allow the Board to operate at current levels.

General Services Fund Group

4K9 888-609 Operating Expenses

2000	2001	2002	2003 Estimate	2004 House Passed	2005 House Passed
\$400,935	\$366,677	\$256,433	\$496,731	\$444,208	\$453,043
	-8.5%	-30.1%	93.7%	-10.6%	2.0%

Source: GSF: Revenue received by the Ohio Veterinary Medical Board is deposited into Fund 4K9

Legal Basis: The main operating appropriations bill of the 125th G.A. (originally established by Am. Sub. H.B. 152 of the 120th G.A.)

Purpose: This appropriation supports the general operating expenses, including payroll, supplies, and equipment for the Ohio Veterinary Medical Board.

LSC Budget Spreadsheet by Line Item, FY 2004 - FY 2005

<i>Fund</i>	<i>ALI</i>	<i>ALI Title</i>	<i>Estimated 2003</i>	<i>As Introduced 2004</i>	<i>House Sub Bill 2004</i>	<i>% Change Est. 2003 to House 2004</i>	<i>As Introduced 2005</i>	<i>House Sub Bill 2005</i>	<i>% Change House 2004 to House 2005</i>
<i>DVM Veterinary Medical Board</i>									
4K9	888-609	Operating Expenses	\$496,731	\$ 444,208	\$ 444,208	-10.6%	\$ 453,043	\$ 453,043	2.0%
General Services Fund Group Total			\$ 496,731	\$ 444,208	\$ 444,208	-10.6%	\$ 453,043	\$ 453,043	2.0%
Total All Budget Fund Groups			\$ 496,731	\$ 444,208	\$ 444,208	-10.6%	\$ 453,043	\$ 453,043	2.0%

As Introduced

As Passed by the House

Subject: Renewal Fee Increase**R.C. 4741.17**

Increases the biennial renewal fees currently paid by veterinarians and registered veterinary technicians. The fee increases will be used to support the operations of the Veterinary Board. The increase is from \$155 to \$200 for veterinarians and from \$35 to \$45 for registered veterinary technicians. This fee would apply to those veterinarians or registered veterinary technicians that have the renewal application postmarked before the first day of March. If a veterinarian or registered veterinary technician has his or her renewal application postmarked after this date, the fees are higher. For renewal applications postmarked after the first day of March, but before the first day of April, the fees are currently \$225 and \$45, respectively. These fees would increase to \$275 for a veterinarian renewal and \$55 for a registered veterinary technician under this bill. A registered veterinary technician postmarking his or her renewal application after the first day of April would pay \$65 under this bill. Currently they pay \$60.

Fiscal effect: If the number of licenses remains constant, this increase will result in additional revenue each biennium of approximately \$194,000 for the 4K9 Fund.

R.C. 4741.17

No provision.