

Joint Legislative Ethics Committee

House Transportation and Justice Subcommittee

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Legislative Service Commission*

March 9, 2005

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LSC Redbook
for the
Joint Legislative Ethics Committee

House Transportation and Justice Subcommittee

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March 9, 2005

Joint Legislative Ethics Committee

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- Monitors ethics compliance; investigates complaints; sanctions as appropriate
 - Administers mandatory lobbyist registrations and filings
 - Handles annual legislative financial disclosure statement filings

OVERVIEW

The duties and responsibilities of the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee, which was created to serve the General Assembly, include the following:

- Establishing and enforcing a standard code of ethics.
- Receiving and hearing complaints alleging breaches of privilege, misconduct, or ethics violations.
- Obtaining information with respect to any complaint.
- Recommending appropriate sanctions.
- Recommending legislation.
- Acting as an advisory body on questions relating to ethics, conflicts of interest, and financial disclosure.
- Administering the annual financial disclosure forms of legislative officials and staff.
- Administering legislative, retirement system, and executive agency lobbyist registrations and filings.

This legislative agency consists of two components: (1) a 12-member legislative committee, and (2) the Office of the Legislative Inspector General, which employs an executive director and a staff of five for the purpose of assisting the legislative committee in exercising its powers and duties. The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate appoint six of the legislative committee members each, and not more than three can be from the same political party.

Executive Recommendation for FYs 2006 and 2007

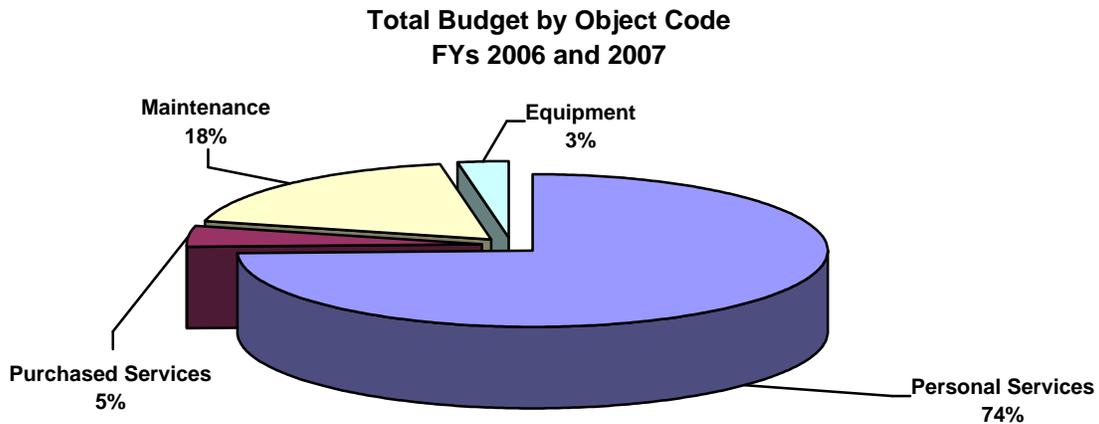
Under existing law – division (B) of section 107.03 of the Revised Code – the executive branch of the state of Ohio has limited authority over the state’s legislative branch, especially in the case of the biennial operating budgets and associated permanent and temporary law of legislative agencies. Although the biennial operating budgets of legislative agencies are presented to the legislature as executive recommendations, the Office of Budget and Management in reality only serves as the conduit through which legislative agency budgets are passed to the legislature.

That said, the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee requested for each fiscal year of the next biennium a no-growth GRF budget, with the expectation that it will still be able to deliver the level of services currently being provided in FY 2005. As of this writing, the Committee’s total FY 2005 GRF spending is

estimated at \$550,000. Its total requested GRF funding level in each of FYs 2006 and 2007 is also \$550,000.

Object of Expense Summary

The pie chart immediately below shows the total recommended appropriations (FYs 2006 and 2007) by major object of expense for the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee.



Personnel Levels

The table below displays the number of committee members and staff for the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee from FYs 2002 through 2007.

Joint Legislative Ethics Committee Personnel Levels						
Type of Personnel	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006*	2007*
Committee Members	12	12	12	12	12	12
Staff	6	6	6	6	6	6
Totals	18	18	18	18	18	18

* The personnel levels displayed in the above table for FYs 2006 and 2007 are estimates.

ANALYSIS OF EXECUTIVE PROPOSAL

Legislative Inspector General

Purpose: To enable the Office of the Legislative Inspector General to assist the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee in exercising its powers and duties.

The following table shows the lone line item that is used to fund the Legislative Inspector General, as well as the Governor’s recommended funding levels.

Fund	ALI	Title	FY 2006	FY 2007
General Revenue Fund				
GRF	028-321	Legislative Ethics Committee	\$550,000	\$550,000
General Revenue Fund Subtotal			\$550,000	\$550,000
Total Funding: Legislative Inspector General			\$550,000	\$550,000

Legislative Inspector General

Program Description: The program supports the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee and the Office of the Legislative Inspector General in performing various duties and responsibilities, including, but not limited to: (1) establishing and enforcing a standard code of ethics to govern all members and employees of the state legislature and all candidates seeking election to the state legislature, (2) receiving and hearing complaints alleging breaches of privilege, misconduct, or ethics violations, (3) acting as an advisory body on questions relating to ethics, conflicts of interest, and financial disclosure, (4) administering the annual financial disclosure forms of legislative officials and staff, and (5) administering legislative, retirement system, and executive agency lobbyist registrations and filings.

Funding Source: GRF

Line Item: See above table

Implication of Executive Recommendation: At the recommended level of funding, the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee and the Office of the Inspector General will be able to carry out statutorily mandated duties and responsibilities.

Temporary and Permanent Law Provisions: None

General Revenue Fund

GRF 028-321 Legislative Ethics Committee

2002	2003	2004	2005 Estimate	2006 Executive Proposal	2007 Executive Proposal
\$415,492	\$441,551	\$472,972	\$550,000	\$550,000	\$550,000
	6.3%	7.1%	16.3%	0.0%	0.0%

Source: GRF

Legal Basis: Section 64 of Am. Sub. H.B. 95 of the 125th G.A. (originally established by Am. Sub. H.B. 492 of the 120th G.A.)

Purpose: Moneys appropriated to the line item pay for the personal services, purchased services, maintenance, and equipment costs of the Office of the Legislative Inspector General, a group of five full-time staff and an executive director, which assists the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee in performing statutorily mandated ethics-related duties and responsibilities.

General Services Fund Group

4G7 028-601 Joint Legislative Ethics Committee

2002	2003	2004	2005 Estimate	2006 Executive Proposal	2007 Executive Proposal
\$26,305	\$33,316	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	26.7%	-100.0%	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source: GSF: Initial, update, and late registration fees paid by lobbyists and their employers

Legal Basis: Discontinued line item; ORC 101.34(C) (originally established by Am. Sub. H.B. 492 of the 120th G.A.)

Purpose: Moneys deposited to the credit of the fund, including any interest and earnings from the fund, were used for the purchase of data storage and computerization facilities for the legislative and executive agency lobbying statements filed with the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee. Pursuant to Am. Sub. H.B. 95 of the 125th G.A., in FY 2004, the Director of Budget and Management transferred 50% of the cash balance in Fund 4G7 to the GRF (\$110,528), and in FY 2005, the Director of Budget and Management transferred all of the remaining cash balance in Fund 4G7 to the GRF (\$113,661).

LSC Budget Spreadsheet by Line Item, FY 2006 - FY 2007

<i>Fund</i>	<i>ALI</i>	<i>ALI Title</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>Estimated 2005</i>	<i>Executive 2006</i>	<i>% Change 2005 to 2006</i>	<i>Executive 2007</i>	<i>% Change 2006 to 2007</i>
JLE Joint Legislative Ethics Committee								
GRF	028-321	Legislative Ethics Committee	\$ 472,972	\$550,000	\$ 550,000	0.0%	\$ 550,000	0.0%
General Revenue Fund Total			\$ 472,972	\$ 550,000	\$ 550,000	0.0%	\$ 550,000	0.0%
Total All Budget Fund Groups			\$ 472,972	\$ 550,000	\$ 550,000	0.0%	\$ 550,000	0.0%