Joint Legislative Ethics Committee

Senate Finance and Financial Institutions Committee

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Legislative Service Commission

May 11, 2007

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LSC Redbook

for the

Joint Legislative Ethics Committee

Senate Finance and Financial Institutions Committee

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Catalog of Budget Line Items
LSC Budget Spreadsheet By Line Item: Executive to House Passed

May 11, 2007

Joint Legislative Ethics Committee

- 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, but are not limited to, 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.
- 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 2008 and 2009

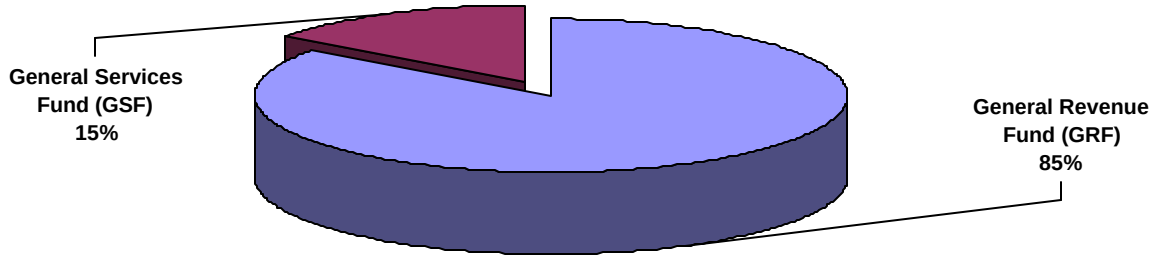
Under existing law – division (B) of section 107.03 of the Revised Code – the executive branch of the state of Ohio has limited authority over the state's legislative branch, especially in the case of the biennial operating budgets and associated permanent and temporary law of legislative agencies. Although 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 zero-growth budget, with the expectation that it will be able to deliver the level of services currently being provided in FY 2007. As of this writing, the Committee's total FY 2007 expenditures are estimated at $650,000. Its total requested funding level in each of FYs 2008 and 2009 is also $650,000.

Expense by Fund Group Summary

The pie chart immediately below shows the total recommended appropriations (FYs 2008 and 2009) by fund group for the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee. This information is shown for all funds, including the GRF.

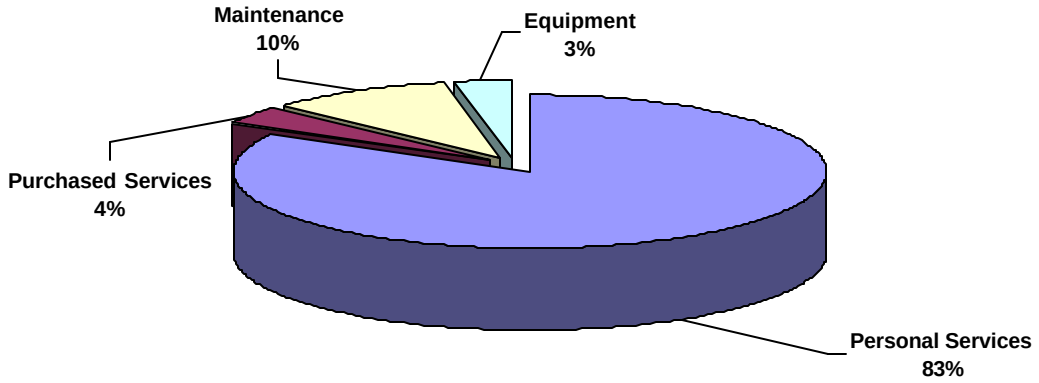
Total Budget by Fund Group
FYs 2008 and 2009



Object of Expense Summary

The pie chart immediately below shows the total recommended appropriations (FYs 2008 and 2009) by major object of expense for the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee.

Total Budget by Object of Expense
FYs 2008 and 2009



Personnel Levels

The table below displays the number of committee members and staff for the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee from FYs 2004 through 2009.

Joint Legislative Ethics Committee Personnel Levels						
Type of Personnel	**2004**	**2005**	**2006**	**2007**	**2008***	**2009***
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 2008 and 2009 are estimates.

ANALYSIS OF EXECUTIVE PROPOSAL

For budget purposes, as detailed below, the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee is considered a single program series agency and its activities are not subdivided into multiple programs.

Single Program Series **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 two line items that are used to fund the Legislative Inspector General, as well as the Governor's recommended funding levels.

Fund	ALI	Title	FY 2008	FY 2009
General Revenue Fund				
GRF	028-321	Legislative Ethics Committee	$550,000	$550,000
General Services Fund				
4G7	028-601	Joint Legislative Ethic Committee	$100,000	$100,000
Total Funding: Legislative Inspector General			**$650,000**	**$650,000**

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, employees, and 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 Sources: (1) GRF, and (2) initial, update, and late registration fees paid by lobbyists and their employers

Line Items: 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 and lobbying administration, including registration, reporting, and compliance.

Temporary and Permanent Law Provisions

It does not appear that the executive-recommended budget contains any permanent or temporary law provisions directly affecting the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee or the Office of the Inspector General.

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General Revenue Fund

GRF 028-321 Legislative Ethics Committee

2004	2005	2006	2007 Estimate	2008 House Passed	2009 House Passed
$472,972	$448,773	$516,244	$550,000	**$550,000**	**$550,000**
	-5.1%	15.0%	6.5%	**0.0%**	**0.0%**

Source: GRF

Legal Basis: Section 206.84 of Am. Sub. H.B. 66 of the 126th 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 and lobbying administration, including registration, reporting, and compliance.

General Services Fund Group

4G7 028-601 Joint Legislative Ethics Committee

2004	2005	2006	2007 Estimate	2008 House Passed	2009 House Passed
$0	$0	$0	$100,000	**$100,000**	**$100,000**
			N/A	**0.0%**	**0.0%**

Source: GSF: (1) Registration fee of $25 charged each legislative agent, executive agency lobbyist, and retirement system lobbyist and their employer when filing an initial registration statement, (2) late filing fee assessed against legislative agent, executive agency lobbyist, retirement system lobbyist, or employer ($12.50 per day, up to a maximum fee of $100), and (3) any interest and earnings from the fund

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

Purpose: Prior to the enactment of Am. Sub. H.B. 699 of the 126th General Assembly, moneys credited to the fund were required to be used solely for the operation of the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee and the Office of Legislative Inspector General and for the purchase of data storage and computerization facilities for legislative agent and executive agency lobbyist expenditure statements. The above noted act also permits the moneys to be used for the purchase of data storage and computerization facilities for retirement system lobbyist expenditure statements.

LSC Budget Spreadsheet by Line Item, FY 2008 - FY 2009

Fund	ALI	ALI Title	Estimated 2007	As Introduced 2008	House Passed 2008	% Change Est. 2007 to House 2008	As Introduced 2009	House Passed 2009	% Change House 2008 to House 2009
JLE		**Legislative Ethics Committee, Joint**							
GRF	028-321	Legislative Ethics Committee	$550,000	$ 550,000	$ 550,000	0.0%	$ 550,000	$ 550,000	0.0%
General Revenue Fund Total			**$ 550,000**	**$ 550,000**	**$ 550,000**	**0.0%**	**$ 550,000**	**$ 550,000**	**0.0%**
4G7	028-601	Joint Legislative Ethics Committee	$100,000	$ 100,000	$ 100,000	0.0%	$ 100,000	$ 100,000	0.0%
General Services Fund Group Total			**$ 100,000**	**$ 100,000**	**$ 100,000**	**0.0%**	**$ 100,000**	**$ 100,000**	**0.0%**
Total All Budget Fund Groups			***$ 650,000***	***$ 650,000***	***$ 650,000***	***0.0%***	***$ 650,000***	***$ 650,000***	***0.0%***