

LSC Redbook

Analysis of the Executive Budget Proposal

Judicial Conference of Ohio

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READER'S GUIDE

The Legislative Service Commission prepares an analysis of the executive budget proposal for each agency. These analyses are commonly called "Redbooks." This brief introduction is intended to help readers navigate the Redbook for the Judicial Conference of Ohio (JCO), which includes the following three sections.

1. Overview: Provides a brief description of the Conference's existing functions and staffing, and an overview of the Conference's executive recommended budget for the FY 2014-FY 2015 biennium, and notes other important budgetary matters.
2. Analysis of Executive Proposal: Provides a detailed analysis of the Conference's executive recommended budget, including the funding and purposes for each appropriated line item, and the services and activities that are financed by those appropriated moneys.
3. Attachments: Includes the LSC's Catalog of Budget Line Items (COBLI), which describes each line item's purpose, revenue, and expenditures, and the LSC budget spreadsheet, which summaries each line item's recent expenditure and appropriations history.

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ATTACHMENTS:

- Catalog of Budget Line Items
- Budget Spreadsheet By Line Item

Judicial Conference of Ohio

- Roughly 70% GRF-funded agency
- GRF budget to increase by 3% in each year
- Money earmarked for State Council of Uniform State Laws

OVERVIEW

Mission and Operations

Duties and responsibilities. The Judicial Conference of Ohio's primary charge is 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 It was created by the General Assembly in 1963 as a statutory entity within the judicial branch of state government.

The Conference fulfills this statutory responsibility primarily through research projects, program activities, and published materials that allow information, experiences, and ideas to be shared with and among judges. In 1994, the Conference was authorized to prepare a judicial impact statement on a bill or resolution introduced in the General Assembly that will or may affect revenues and/or expenditures of the courts, workloads or caseloads of judges or members of their staffs, or the disposition of cases.

Members. The Conference consists of all 724 active judges in Ohio, including the following courts and six related associations:

- Justices of the Supreme Court of Ohio and judges of the courts of appeals, courts of common pleas, municipal courts, and county courts;
- The Ohio Courts of Appeals Judges Association, the Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association, the Ohio Association of Domestic Relations Judges, the Ohio Association of Juvenile Court Judges, the Ohio Association of Probate Judges, and the Association of Municipal/County Judges of Ohio.

Executive Committee. The general charge and supervision of the administration of the Conference's affairs rests with judges who serve on the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee meets quarterly and is comprised of approximately 50 members, including the officers, the committee chairs, the presiding officers and presiding officers-elect from the six judicial associations, the Chief Justice and the Administrative

¹ The Conference's primary duties and responsibilities are codified in R.C. 105.91.

Director of the Supreme Court of Ohio, and the Chief Justice-elect of the Court of Appeals of Ohio.

Staff. The Conference has a staff of ten full-time employees. The requested budget level for the FY 2014-FY 2015 biennium will maintain that current staffing level. Conference staff provide administrative and research support for 22 standing and ad hoc committees that involve hundreds of 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

The Conference's FY 2013 estimated expenditures are compared with the executive recommendations for FY 2014 and FY 2015 in Table 1 below.² The executive budget recommends GRF appropriations of \$824,900 in FY 2014 and \$847,200 in FY 2015. Relative to the Conference's FY 2013 estimated GRF expenditures, the FY 2014 and FY 2015 executive recommended funding levels represent increases of 2.9% and 2.7%, respectively.

Fund Group	FY 2013*	FY 2014	% change, FY 2013-FY 2014	FY 2015	% change, FY 2014-FY 2015
General Revenue	\$801,700	\$824,900	2.9%	\$847,200	2.7%
General Services	\$385,000	\$385,000	0.0%	\$385,000	0.0%
TOTAL	\$1,186,700	\$1,209,900	2.0%	\$1,232,200	1.8%

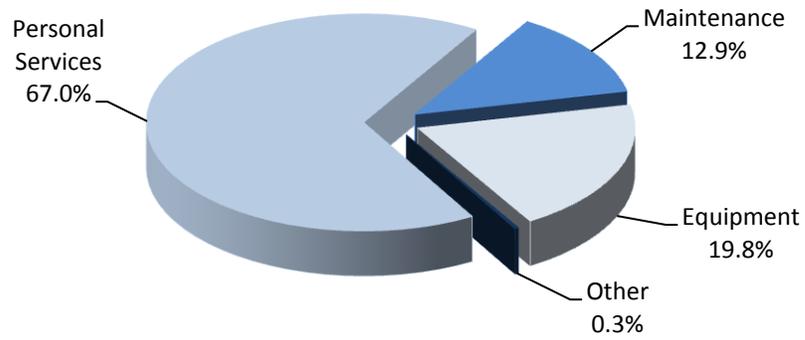
*FY 2013 figures represent estimated expenditures.

Expense Account Summary

Chart 1 immediately below shows the Conference's total recommended biennial appropriation (FY 2014 and FY 2015) by major object of expense. Almost all of the appropriated money will be allocated for operating expenses, most notably personal services, which are payroll-related costs, including salaries, benefits, administrative charges, retirement, purchased time, and training.

² Pursuant to R.C. 107.03, the Governor is not permitted to make any alterations in the biennial budget requests submitted to the Office of Budget and Management by the judicial branch of the state. Thus, herein, as the Conference is an entity of the judicial branch of the state, the executive budget/recommendations reflect the appropriations as requested by the Conference.

**Chart 1: Biennial Budget Recommendations
by Object of Expense Category, FY 2014-FY 2015**



ANALYSIS OF EXECUTIVE PROPOSAL

Operating Expenses

This section of the Redbook examines in more detail the money appropriated to pay for the Conference's annual operating expenses, including their intended purpose. Table 3 immediately below shows the line items that are used to pay for the Conference's operating expenses, as well as the executive recommended funding levels. It is then followed by a narrative describing how each appropriated amount will be used.

Table 3. Executive Recommended Amounts for the Judicial Conference				
Fund	ALI and Name		FY 2014	FY 2015
General Revenue Fund				
GRF	018321	Operating Expenses	\$824,900	\$847,200
General Services Fund Group				
4030	018601	Ohio Jury Instructions	\$385,000	\$385,000
Total Funding: Judicial Conference Operations			\$1,209,900	\$1,232,200

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 executive budget recommends GRF appropriations of \$824,900 in FY 2014 and \$847,200 in FY 2015. This GRF appropriation will be allocated almost entirely for personal services, which means the cost of payroll-related expenses associated with ten full-time equivalent staff positions. The actual GRF amount allocated for personal services will depend upon the amount of those expenses that may be charged against non-GRF line item 018601, Ohio Jury Instructions.

Temporary law. A related ongoing temporary law provision requires up to \$84,900 in FY 2014 and up to \$88,300 in FY 2015 be used to pay the expenses of the State Council of Uniform State Laws, including membership dues to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL).

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 standing committees and to conduct workshops and special projects. The executive budget recommends a line item appropriation of \$385,000 for each of FY 2014 and FY 2015.

Close to 60% of this line's item appropriation is typically allocated for supplies and maintenance.

Conference-Generated Revenue

The Conference receives royalties from the publication of *Ohio Jury Instructions*, a product of its Jury Instructions Committee. It is expected that this publication will continue to generate approximately \$140,000 per year over the next biennium.

Dues and Fees

Annual dues. The Conference currently collects \$150 annually in dues from all active members. These dues generate approximately \$108,600 annually and are deposited in the state treasury to the credit of the Ohio Jury Instructions Fund (Fund 4030). These dues were increased to \$150 from \$100 in 2013.

Annual meeting. The Conference holds an annual meeting that is attended by approximately 350 judges. The cost of admission is around \$300, and is intended to cover the cost of hosting the meeting. In the event such costs exceed admission revenues, the difference is offset by using money appropriated from Fund 4030.

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General Revenue Fund

GRF 018321 Operating Expenses

FY 2010 Actual	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Estimate	FY 2014 Introduced	FY 2015 Introduced
\$789,121	\$827,013	\$799,939	\$801,700	\$824,900	\$847,200
	4.8%	-3.3%	0.2%	2.9%	2.7%

Source: General Revenue Fund

Legal Basis: Section 313.10 of Am. Sub. H.B. 153 of the 129th G.A. (originally established by Am. Sub. H.B. 204 of the 113th G.A., the main appropriations act covering FY 1980 and FY 1981)

Purpose: This line item is used to fund the Judicial Conference of Ohio's operating expenses (personal services, purchased personal services, supplies and maintenance, and equipment). Of the line item's appropriation, associated temporary law requires up to \$81,000 in FY 2012 and up to \$81,700 in FY 2013 be used to pay the expenses of the State Council of Uniform State Laws, including membership dues to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (Section 601.40 of Am. Sub. H.B. 487 of the 129th G.A.). A similar temporary law provision is proposed in H.B. 59 of the 130th General Assembly earmarking up to \$84,900 in FY 2014 and up to \$88,300 in FY 2015 for expenses associated with the State Council of Uniform State Laws.

Judicial Conference of Ohio

General Services Fund Group

4030 018601 Ohio Jury Instructions

FY 2010 Actual	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Estimate	FY 2014 Introduced	FY 2015 Introduced
\$303,222	\$261,658	\$384,660	\$385,000	\$385,000	\$385,000
	-13.7%	47.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%

Source: General Services Fund Group: Dues (\$150 collected annually from active members who hold a judicial office), conference fees, royalties, grants, bequests, devises, and other gifts

Legal Basis: Section 313.10 of Am. Sub. H.B. 153 of the 129th G.A. (originally established by Controlling Board in FY 1965)

Purpose: Pursuant to temporary law, this fund and related line item are to be used by the Judicial Conference of Ohio to pay expenses incurred in its activities as part of the judicial system of the state as determined by the Judicial Conference Executive Committee. These expenses typically include, but are not limited to, publications, workshops, conferences, and meetings of the Conference's permanent and ad hoc committees. Existing temporary law also appropriates for those authorized purposes all money accrued to the fund in excess of the \$350,000 in each of FY 2012 and FY 2013 and prohibits the Director of Budget and Management or the Controlling Board from transferring any of the fund's money to any other fund. A similar temporary law provision is proposed in H.B. 59 of the 130th General Assembly that appropriates any money accruing to the fund to in excess of \$385,000 in FY 2014 and in FY 2015.

FY 2014 - FY 2015 Introduced Appropriation Amounts

All Fund Groups

Line Item Detail by Agency			FY 2012	Estimate FY 2013	Introduced FY 2014	FY 2013 to FY 2014 % Change	Introduced FY 2015	FY 2014 to FY 2015 % Change
Report For Main Operating Appropriations Bill			Version: As Introduced					
JCO Judicial Conference of Ohio								
GRF	018321	Operating Expenses	\$ 799,939	\$ 801,700	\$ 824,900	2.89%	\$ 847,200	2.70%
General Revenue Fund Total			\$ 799,939	\$ 801,700	\$ 824,900	2.89%	\$ 847,200	2.70%
4030	018601	Ohio Jury Instructions	\$ 384,660	\$ 385,000	\$ 385,000	0.00%	\$ 385,000	0.00%
General Services Fund Group Total			\$ 384,660	\$ 385,000	\$ 385,000	0.00%	\$ 385,000	0.00%
Judicial Conference of Ohio Total			\$ 1,184,599	\$ 1,186,700	\$ 1,209,900	1.96%	\$ 1,232,200	1.84%