

Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board

Jason Phillips, Budget Analyst

- Contract with Department of Agriculture for investigators has resulted in significant savings to the Board
- Licensed 5,572 professional veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and veterinary specialists in FY 2006

OVERVIEW

Duties and Responsibilities

The Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board's mission is to ensure that professional, trustworthy and competent veterinarians and veterinary technicians serve Ohio's citizens. The Board serves a number of functions, including issuing licenses, providing examinations for licenses, approving continuing education courses, and investigating complaints. Chapter 4741. of the Revised Code grants these powers.

Agency in Brief

Agency In Brief					
Number of Employees*	Total Appropriations - All Funds		GRF Appropriations		Appropriation Bill(s)
	2008	2009	2008	2009	
3	\$382,740	\$327,312	\$0	\$0	Am. Sub. H.B. 119

*Employee count obtained from the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) payroll reports as of June 2007.

Licensure

The Veterinary Medical Licensing Board handles the administrative work for over 5,500 veterinarians, registered veterinary technicians and veterinary specialists. The Board's licenses have biennial renewal cycles. License fees generated \$874,910 in revenue over the most recently completed two-year renewal cycle (FY 2006 and FY 2007). Compared to expenditures of \$546,166 during that same time period, the Board realized a net gain of \$328,744.

Summary of FYs 2008 - 2009 Budget Issues

Online Renewals

As noted above, the budget includes funding of \$15,740 for FY 2008 and \$20,312 for FY 2009 to make available online renewal for veterinarians beginning in CY 2008 and veterinary technicians and veterinary facilities in FY 2009. This additional funding will pay for the development of the online renewal software and integration with the e-Licensing system, development of online renewal forms for all license types, the account for credit card services, and the actual cost of processing the credit cards.

Veterinary Student Loan Program

The budget also appropriates \$60,000 in FY 2008 for the Board's Veterinary Student Loan Program. Under the program, the Ohio Board of Regents, by means of a contract entered into with a veterinarian who has signed a letter of intent for participation in the loan repayment program and the Veterinary Medical Licensing Board, may agree to repay all or part of the principal and interest of a government or other educational loan taken out by a veterinarian for expenses incurred, as long as the veterinarian was enrolled in an approved or accredited veterinary college in the United States and agrees to provide various veterinary services in areas of the state that have limited access to such services. Ten dollars of each veterinary license or limited license biennial renewal fee is deposited into the Veterinarian Loan Repayment Fund (Fund 5BU). The Board anticipates having rules filed for the program in August 2007.

Sharing of Inspectors with the Department of Agriculture

The Veterinary Medical Licensing Board is in the same position as other boards and commissions regarding higher payroll and other costs. In order to reduce personnel costs, the Board began a contract with the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) in 2000 to share investigators. Through this arrangement, the Board only pays for the hours spent investigating its cases and mileage. In FY 2004, the Board expanded the contract to include compliance inspectors. As a result of this arrangement, the Board has been able to significantly reduce payroll costs and decreased the time involved for investigations, as more than one investigator can be working on the Board's cases at a time. The Board most recently renewed the contract with ODA in CY 2005. The Board is attempting to reduce costs even further by combining compliance inspections in the same geographical location as investigations to conserve travel and time costs. In FY 2006, the Board spent \$22,052 reimbursing ODA investigators for hours and mileage pursuant to the contract with ODA.

ANALYSIS OF THE BUDGET

Single Program Series

Operating Expenses

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

The following table shows the line items that are used to fund the Veterinary Medical Licensing Board, as well as the funding levels for the FY 2008 - 2009 biennium by fiscal year.

Fund	ALI	Title	FY 2008	FY 2009
General Services Fund Group				
4K9	888-609	Operating Expenses	\$ 322,740	\$327,312
5BU	888-602	Veterinary Student Loan Program	\$60,000	\$0
General Services Fund Group Subtotal			\$ 382,740	\$327,312
Total Funding: Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board			\$382,740	\$327,312

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. The Board is also charged with overseeing a Veterinary Student Loan Program, which repays all or part of a veterinary student's educational loans if they agree to provide various veterinary services in areas of the state that have limited access to such services.

Funding Source: Fund 4K9 - license fees and other assessments

Implication of the Budget: The budget fully funds the Veterinary Medical Licensing Board's current activities for FYs 2008 - 2009 and allows the Board to make available online license renewal to its licensees. The budget also appropriates \$60,000 in FY 2008 for the Veterinary Student Loan Program, enabling loan repayments for veterinary students to commence. The Veterinarian Loan Repayment Fund (Fund 5BU) will begin receiving additional revenue in early CY 2008 when veterinarian license renewals take place (\$10 of each veterinarian license renewal fee is devoted to the program).

FY 2008 - 2009 Final Appropriation Amounts

All Fund Group

<i>Line Item Detail by Agency</i>			<i>FY 2005:</i>	<i>FY 2006:</i>	<i>FY 2007 Adj. Appropriations:</i>	<i>FY 2008 Appropriations:</i>	<i>% Change 2007 to 2008:</i>	<i>FY 2009 Appropriations:</i>	<i>% Change 2008 to 2009:</i>
Report For: Main Operating Appropriations Bill			Version: Enacted						
<i>DVM Veterinary Medical Licensing Board</i>									
4K9	888-609	Operating Expenses	\$ 279,360	\$ 262,431	\$ 307,000	\$ 322,740	5.13%	\$ 327,312	1.42%
5BU	888-602	Veterinary Student Loan Program	----	----	\$ 0	\$ 60,000	N/A	\$ 0	-100.00%
General Services Fund Group Total			\$ 279,360	\$ 262,431	\$ 307,000	\$ 382,740	24.67%	\$ 327,312	-14.48%
<i>Veterinary Medical Licensing Board Total</i>			\$ 279,360	\$ 262,431	\$ 307,000	\$ 382,740	24.67%	\$ 327,312	-14.48%