

Greenbook

LBO Analysis of Enacted Budget

Casino Control Commission

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Casino Control Commission

Quick look...

- The Ohio Casino Control Commission (CAC) regulates casino and sports gaming in Ohio and enforces casino, sports gaming, and skills-based amusement machines laws.
- CAC receives no GRF moneys; funding is largely derived from a 3% share of the gross casino revenue tax. Disposition of casino tax revenue is codified in Article XV of the Ohio Constitution.
- CAC is led by seven commissioners appointed by the Governor.

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
Fund 5HS0 ALI 955321, Operating Expenses					
\$13,880,647	\$14,738,805	\$15,650,518	\$16,314,995	\$17,855,928	\$18,849,195
% change	6.2%	6.2%	4.2%	9.4%	5.6%
Fund 5NU0 ALI 955601, Casino Commission Enforcement					
\$110,175	\$116,116	\$105,950	\$111,256	\$156,680	\$200,547
% change	5.4%	-8.8%	5.0%	40.8%	28.0%
Fund 5YR0 ALI 955602, Problem Sports Gaming					
\$0	\$0	\$611,900	\$1,454,666	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000
% change	--	--	137.7%	140.6%	0.0%
Total funding:					
\$13,990,822	\$14,854,922	\$16,368,368	\$17,880,917	\$21,512,608	\$22,549,742
% change	6.2%	10.2%	9.2%	20.3%	4.8%

Agency overview

The Ohio Casino Control Commission (CAC) was established in 2011 to provide oversight of the state's casino industry and to enforce standards and procedures for casino operators, vendors, and their employees. CAC licenses and regulates all persons participating in casino gaming, investigates crime occurring within the casino environment, and conducts audits on casino operations. The mission of the agency was later expanded to include the enforcement of state laws pertaining to skills-based amusement machines (SBAM), the management of a regulatory system for fantasy sports contests, and the regulation of the sports gaming industry.

Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 budget

This agency receives no GRF funding. The Ohio Casino Control Commission (CAC) is financed primarily through its 3% share of Ohio's 33% tax on gross casino revenue. The Commission's total appropriations are about \$21.5 million for FY 2026 and \$22.5 million for FY 2027. Total appropriations in FY 2026 represent an increase of approximately \$3.6 million from FY 2025 actual spending. Appropriation increases for FY 2026 and FY 2027 are largely driven by plans to hire six new full-time permanent employees to assist in the regulation and oversight of sports gaming operators and to support efforts to combat gambling addiction.

Operating Expenses (955321)

This line item funds expenses directly required for general operation of the Commission, including all administrative, licensing, and regulatory activities. The Casino Control Commission Fund (Fund 5HS0) is supported by CAC's share of the gross casino revenue tax. The appropriation for FY 2026 is \$17.9 million, a 9.4% increase over actual FY 2025 spending. The enacted budget appropriates a further 5.6% funding increase in FY 2027. Increased appropriations in this line item for the upcoming biennium enable the CAC to hire additional staff and provide the resources needed to regulate sports gaming, which has been legal in Ohio since January 1, 2023.

Casino Commission Enforcement (955601)

This line item provides funds for the Ohio Casino Control Commission's Division of Enforcement. The moneys primarily go to pay for the supplies and equipment of gaming agents, who play an active role in regulation and law enforcement within Ohio's casinos and community gaming establishments. The Casino Control Commission Enforcement Fund (Fund 5NU0) is funded by the CAC's collection of fines, forfeited bail, and seized property. The actual spending for this line item in FY 2025 was \$111,256. The enacted budget appropriates \$156,680 in FY 2026 and \$200,547 in FY 2027.

In addition to staffing casinos, the Division of Enforcement works collaboratively with other local, state, and federal agencies on criminal activity both in and outside of casinos, including drug trafficking, money laundering, counterfeit currency, and other financial crimes. The Division has removed over 6,800 illegal gambling machines and other equipment from operation since its inception and seized more than \$7.2 million in cash.

Problem Sports Gaming (955602)

This line item funds various programs regarding problem sports gambling. The moneys are distributed through an agreement between the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and CAC, with the majority going to local Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Boards, and a portion set aside for statewide initiatives. The Problem Sports Gaming Fund (Fund 5YR0) is funded by a 2% share of the 20% sports gaming tax on sports betting receipts. The enacted budget appropriations were about \$2.0 million more than the actual spending in FY 2025, \$3.5 million in both FY 2026 and FY 2027. CAC will use the increase to conduct behavioral surveys, research, program analysis, and support the launch of new programs deemed necessary to improve Ohio's problem gambling system of care.

CAC/zg