

# **Greenbook**

## **LBO Analysis of Enacted Budget**

### **Judicial Conference of Ohio**

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# LBO Greenbook

## Judicial Conference of Ohio

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### Quick look...

- The Judicial Conference of Ohio (JCO) is charged with studying and recommending changes in the procedures and practices of Ohio's court system.
- Total appropriations: \$2.1 million in FY 2026 and \$2.3 million in FY 2027.
- Sources of the budget: GRF (64.8%), and state non-GRF (35.2%).
- The Conference has a staff of eight full-time employees.

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
<b>GRF ALI 018321, Operating Expenses</b>					
\$1,076,674	\$1,084,187	\$1,140,683	\$1,191,352	\$1,398,265	\$1,475,131
% change	0.7%	5.2%	4.4%	17.4%	5.5%
<b>DPF Fund 4030 ALI 018601, Ohio Jury Instructions</b>					
\$520,289	\$551,713	\$558,358	\$637,619	\$746,000	\$814,899
% change	6.0%	1.2%	14.2%	17.0%	9.2%
<b>Total funding:</b>					
\$1,596,963	\$1,635,900	\$1,699,041	\$1,828,971	\$2,144,265	\$2,290,030
% change	2.4%	3.9%	7.6%	17.2%	6.8%

### Agency overview

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. The General Assembly created the Conference in 1963 as a statutory entity within the judicial branch of state government. The Conference's primary duties and responsibilities are codified in R.C. 105.91. 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. The Conference consists of all 722 active judges in Ohio, retired judges that have continued judicial work via assignment, and six related judicial associations. The powers of the Conference are exercised, controlled, and conducted by its Executive Committee, which is comprised of approximately 50 judges.

## Budget highlights

### Performance audits

The bill requires the Auditor of State to conduct a performance audit and a financial audit of the Conference and provide the results to the House Speaker and Senate President by December 31, 2026. The Conference may see a minimal increase in administrative costs as a result.<sup>1</sup>

## Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 budget

### Operating Expenses (ALI 018321)

This GRF line item is the Conference's primary source of funding for its day-to-day operations. Relative to the line item's estimated expenditures for the FY 2024-FY 2025 biennium, the budget increases its FY 2026-FY 2027 appropriation by \$541,361 (23.2%).

#### State Council of Uniform State Laws<sup>2</sup>

A temporary law provision requires up to \$103,315 in FY 2026 and up to \$108,481 in FY 2027 of the line item's appropriation 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).<sup>3</sup>

### Ohio Jury Instructions (ALI 018601)

This line item draws its appropriation from the Ohio Jury Instructions Fund (Fund 4030), which largely consists of: (1) annual membership dues and meeting, seminar, and conference fees and (2) royalties from the Conference's publication known as Ohio Jury Instructions. Historically, the Conference used the line item to support activities and services not directly related to its ongoing day-to-day business. This includes costs associated with meetings, conferences, seminars, printing, publishing, website maintenance and development, information technology, and other nonpersonnel activities. From FY 2020-FY 2025, annual revenues credited to Fund 4030 averaged \$527,684 per year.

JCO/zg

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<sup>1</sup> Section 701.140 of H.B. 96 of the 136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

<sup>2</sup> The duty of the State Council, a four-person Ohio council of commissioners appointed by the Governor, is to study the prevailing law in the U.S. and other countries on subjects where uniformity is important.

<sup>3</sup> NCCUSL, a Chicago-based nonprofit unincorporated association largely comprised of state commissions of uniform laws, studies and reviews the law of the states to determine which areas of law should be uniform.