

Greenbook

LBO Analysis of Enacted Budget

State Library Board

Patrick Campbell, Budget Analyst
August 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Quick look.....	1
Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 budget	1
Summary	1
Library services and support.....	2
Operating Expenses (ALI 350607)	2
Ohioana Library Association (ALI 350608)	3
Regional Library Systems (ALI 350609)	3
Services for Libraries (ALI 350603)	4
Library for the Blind (ALI 350605)	4
Services for State Agencies (ALI 350602)	5
LSTA Federal (ALI 350601)	5
Ohio Public Library Information Network.....	5
Ohio Public Library Information Network (ALI 350604)	6
Other budget provisions	6
Public library boards of trustees terms	6
Vetoed provision.....	6

Attachment:

Appropriation Spreadsheet

LBO Greenbook

State Library Board

Quick look...

- The State Library Board (LIB) provides library and information services and materials to Ohio's state government, local libraries, educational institutions, and residents; promotes coordination among library systems; and acts as a depository for state and federal government documents. LIB's budget also houses the Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN).
- The State Library Board consists of five members appointed by the Director of Education and Workforce. The State Library Board appoints the 11-member OPLIN Board of Trustees.
- The State Librarian oversees the day-to-day operation of the State Library and its roughly 50 staff. Each of the state's 251 public library systems use State Library and OPLIN services.
- The budget appropriates \$24.5 million in FY 2026 and \$24.6 million in FY 2027.
 - Primary sources of the budget: state non-GRF (77.3%) and federal (22.7%).
 - The budget shifts LIB's GRF funding to non-GRF funds supported by cash transfers from the Public Library Fund.

Fund Group	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriations	FY 2027 Appropriations
General Revenue	\$5,262,889	\$5,176,025	\$0	\$0
State Non-GRF	\$13,020,606	\$12,314,470	\$18,929,916	\$18,984,860
Federal	\$5,330,184	\$5,382,932	\$5,554,767	\$5,609,015
Total	\$23,613,679	\$22,873,427	\$24,484,683	\$24,593,875
% change	--	-3.1%	7.0%	0.4%
GRF % change	--	-1.7%	-100.0%	0.0%

Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 budget

Summary

The State Library Board's (LIB) budget consists of eight appropriation line items (ALIs). Of those, seven are supported by state non-GRF appropriations in the Dedicated Purpose Fund (DPF) and Internal Service Activity (ISA) fund groups, and one is supported by federal grants. The budget provides overall funding of \$24.5 million in FY 2026 and \$24.6 million in FY 2027. FY 2026 appropriations represent an increase of 7.0% from FY 2025 expenditures, while FY 2027 appropriations increase by 0.4%.

The budget eliminates LIB's GRF appropriations and instead funds the same activities through transfers from the Public Library Fund (Fund 7065), also referred to as the PLF. Specifically, the budget replaces three GRF ALIs (350321, Operating Expenses; 350502, Regional Library Systems; and 350401, Ohioana Library Association) with three new ALIs in non-GRF funds.

As a result of this change, the majority (77.3%) of LIB's FY 2026-FY 2027 budget consists of state non-GRF funds. The remainder of the LIB budget is supported by federal funding (22.7%). This analysis groups LIB's eight line items into two major functional categories: (1) library services and support and (2) Ohio Public Library Information Network. Each LIB appropriation item is discussed in more detail below.

Library services and support

Line items in this category support State Library operations, provide library services to state government and local communities, and provide financial support for local library programs and special activities.

Operating Expenses (ALI 350607)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 350321, Operating Expenses					
\$4,341,234	\$4,424,461	\$4,458,372	\$4,371,509	\$0	\$0
Fund 5CZ1 ALI 350607, Operating Expenses					
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,527,036	\$4,527,474
Total % change	1.9%	0.8%	-1.9%	3.6%	0.0%

This line item replaces GRF ALI 350321, Operating Expenses, as the primary source of state operating support for the State Library's services to state government and Ohio library communities. It provides funds for payroll and fringe benefits, maintenance and equipment, the acquisition of library materials, and other administrative costs. The State Library Operating Expenses Fund (Fund 5CZ1) is supported by annual transfers from the PLF in the same amounts as the appropriation.

This appropriation supports materials circulation, reference services, access to research databases, and services to assist users in finding materials held by libraries around the state through the OhioLINK system. Additional funded activities include digital cataloging for state agency documents; maintaining library catalogs for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation, the Ohioana Library, and the Ohio School for the Deaf; and providing meeting facilities for state agencies.

This line item also funds services to Ohio library communities, including staff to administer the Serving Every Ohioan (SEO) consortium's shared online catalog service for 104 local library systems and to coordinate the Statewide Delivery System and its associated online catalog application. Funds also support the costs for State Library staff to provide consulting services to local libraries, the lending of Talking Book machines to participating libraries, and coordination of the Ohio Digital Library to provide digital content to local libraries. Additional appropriations for services to Ohio library communities are supported by state non-GRF funds in Fund 4590 line item 350603, Services for Libraries, which is supported by service charges, and federal funding in Fund 3130 line item 350601, LSTA Federal.

Ohioana Library Association (ALI 350608)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 350401, Ohioana Library Association					
\$303,102	\$302,026	\$310,516	\$310,516	\$0	\$0
Fund 5CW1 ALI 350608, Ohioana Library Association					
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$310,516	\$310,516
Total % change	-0.4%	2.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

This line item replaces GRF ALI 350401, Ohioana Library Association, in providing state support for the Ohioana Library Association (OLA), an independent, nonprofit entity governed by a board of trustees that is dedicated to collecting and promoting literary works by Ohio authors or about Ohio or Ohioans. The Ohioana Library Association Fund (Fund 5CW1) is supported by annual transfers from the PLF in the same amounts as the appropriation.

The appropriation supports a portion of OLA's operating expenses, including some payroll and benefit costs associated with the management of the library's collection and programs. OLA also uses this subsidy to leverage private, independent funds to support OLA and its services. The budget sets aside \$191,000 in each fiscal year for OLA's operating expenses and allocates the remaining \$119,516 for rental payments for the space OLA leases in the State Library.

Regional Library Systems (ALI 350609)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 350502, Regional Library Systems					
\$480,000	\$480,000	\$494,000	\$494,000	\$0	\$0
Fund 5CX1 ALI 350609, Regional Library Systems					
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$494,000	\$494,000
Total % change	0.0%	2.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

This line item replaces GRF ALI 350502, Regional Library Systems, as the primary source of state support for Ohio's four regional library systems that coordinate the sharing of resources and materials among their member libraries. The systems are the Northeast Ohio Regional Library System (NEO-RLS), Northwest Regional Library System (NORWELD), Southeast Regional Library System (SERLS), and the Southwest Ohio and Neighboring Libraries (SWON). The four systems provide educational and technology training programs and workshops, coordinate regional library programs, and deliver technology support and consulting services to member libraries and their staffs. Each system receives exactly one-quarter of this appropriation annually, amounting to \$123,500 per system per fiscal year under the budget. The budget funds this line item by a yearly cash transfer of \$494,000 from the PLF to the Regional Library Systems Fund (Fund 5CX1).

Services for Libraries (ALI 350603)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
Fund 4590 ALI 350603, Services for Libraries					
\$3,751,889	\$5,894,676	\$6,121,087	\$6,112,608	\$6,748,455	\$6,783,244
% change	57.1%	3.8%	-0.1%	10.4%	0.5%

This line item supports two main programs that serve local libraries and other entities using revenues from service charges. First, this appropriation supports the Statewide Delivery Services Program, which facilitates the sharing of library books and materials between local library systems, comprising 291 public, school, institutional, and other library locations, as well as 115 college and university libraries that are members of the OhioLINK consortium. Second, it supports the SEO consortium's shared online catalog service for 104 local library systems. The remainder of this line item supports various other services the State Library provides to local communities.

Spending in this line item increased beginning in FY 2023 due in part to higher delivery costs due to higher diesel fuel prices. Additionally, spending has been higher since FY 2023 due to the structure of the current Statewide Delivery Service contract, under which the State Library handles all invoices and receives reimbursement from OhioLINK for its portion of the costs. Previously, the Statewide Delivery Service vendor billed OhioLINK directly.

In early 2025, the State Library, through the SEO Service Center, began an IT management service pilot program with Guernsey County District Public Library. Under this arrangement, the SEO Service Center provides certain information technology services to the library through the service center's regular billing structure. Depending on the outcomes of this pilot project, LIB may consider expanding it to other libraries in the FY 2026-FY 2027 biennium.

Library for the Blind (ALI 350605)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
Fund 5GB0 ALI 350605, Library for the Blind					
\$1,274,194	\$1,274,194	\$1,274,194	\$1,274,194	\$1,274,194	\$1,274,194
% change	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

This line item provides funding for the Ohio Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (OLBPD) at the Cleveland Public Library to operate the statewide Talking Book Program. The program assists persons who are blind, visually impaired, reading disabled, and print disabled with access to books through specialized audio devices. Through agreements with the State Library, local public libraries, social services organizations, or other agencies lend specialized "Talking Book" machines to eligible individuals in their area. The Cleveland Public Library circulates braille and audio reading materials statewide. The Library of Congress' National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled supplies nearly all of the physical inventory of audio

books, recorded magazines, and braille materials, as well as playback equipment. The budget funds this line item by a yearly transfer of \$1.3 million from the PLF to the Library for the Blind Fund (Fund 5GB0). Federal funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences provides an additional \$234,000 to OLBPD in each fiscal year, appropriated in Fund 3130 line item 350601, LSTA Federal.

Services for State Agencies (ALI 350602)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
Fund 1390 ALI 350602, Services for State Agencies					
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,045	\$8,000	\$8,000
% change	N/A	N/A	N/A	665.6%	0.0%

This line item supports the State Library's services to state government through fees collected from state agencies that use the Library's services. Most fee revenue comes from charges for cataloging services provided to state agencies, while other revenue comes from salvaged property or assets.

LSTA Federal (ALI 350601)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
Fund 3130 ALI 350601, LSTA Federal					
\$9,277,436	\$6,071,368	\$5,330,184	\$5,382,932	\$5,554,767	\$5,609,015
% change	-34.6%	-12.2%	1.0%	3.2%	1.0%

The State Library uses moneys received from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) under the federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) for a variety of eligible activities. About half of the funds in this line item typically support the operating costs of providing services to Ohio library communities, while the other half provides competitive grants to local libraries. Spending in this item was elevated in FY 2022 and FY 2023 due to temporary IMLS funding made available under federal coronavirus relief acts.

IMLS requires states receiving LSTA grants to match their federal awards at 34%, which Ohio meets using portions of appropriations from line items 350502, 350604, and 350605 that qualify under the LSTA guidelines. LSTA matching funds are also obtained from subgrantee projects. As noted above, a small portion of LSTA grant funding is used to supplement state funding for the Ohio Library for the Blind and Print Disabled Program from line item 350605, Library for the Blind.

Ohio Public Library Information Network

This category includes one line item that supports the Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN). OPLIN is governed by an 11-member board appointed by the State Library Board and exists as an independent entity administratively attached to the State Library of Ohio.

Ohio Public Library Information Network (ALI 350604)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
Fund 4S40 ALI 350604, Ohio Public Library Information Network					
\$5,596,822	\$5,517,426	\$5,625,325	\$4,926,624	\$5,567,715	\$5,587,432
% change	-1.4%	2.0%	-12.4%	13.0%	0.4%

With funding from this line item, OPLIN operates a statewide network that provides public libraries with free broadband internet access, information and research database subscriptions, and access to Ohio-specific content. The budget funds OPLIN through transfers of approximately \$3.7 million in each fiscal year from the PLF to the OPLIN Technology Fund (Fund 4S40). Fund 4S40 also receives revenue through E-Rate reimbursements and fees libraries pay for specific OPLIN services.

Other budget provisions

Public library boards of trustees terms

The bill reduces from seven to four years the terms of office of board of trustee members of a school district free public library, county library district, or regional library district appointed after the bill's effective date. The bill also makes conforming changes to the terms of the first trustee appointments for a new library or library district to align with its reduction in the standard term to four years. When a new school district public library or library district is formed, the law staggers trustee term expiration by requiring the terms of most of the first appointments to its library board of trustees to expire in fewer years than a standard term. This limits the number of trustees whose term expires in the same year. After the first trustees are appointed, all subsequent appointments are eligible to serve the standard term. For additional details, see the LSC bill analysis for H.B. 96, which is available on the General Assembly's website: legislature.ohio.gov.

Vetoed provision

The Governor vetoed a provision that would have required a public library to place material related to sexual orientation or gender identity or expression in a portion of the library that is not primarily open to the view of minors.

**FY 2026 - FY 2027 Final Appropriations
All Fund Groups - Detail**

H.B. 96 - Main Operating Appropriations Bill

Detail by Agency			FY 2024	FY 2025	Appropriation FY 2026	Appropriation FY 2027	FY 2025 to FY 2026 % Change	FY 2026 to FY 2027 % Change
LIB State Library Board								
GRF	350321	Operating Expenses	\$4,458,372	\$4,371,509	\$0	\$0	-100.00%	N/A
GRF	350401	Ohioana Library Association	\$310,516	\$310,516	\$0	\$0	-100.00%	N/A
GRF	350502	Regional Library Systems	\$494,000	\$494,000	\$0	\$0	-100.00%	N/A
General Revenue Fund Subtotal			\$5,262,889	\$5,176,025	\$0	\$0	-100.00%	N/A
4590	350603	Services for Libraries	\$6,121,087	\$6,112,608	\$6,748,455	\$6,783,244	10.40%	0.52%
4S40	350604	Ohio Public Library Information Network	\$5,625,325	\$4,926,624	\$5,567,715	\$5,587,432	13.01%	0.35%
5CW1	350608	Ohioana Library Association	\$0	\$0	\$310,516	\$310,516	N/A	0.00%
5CX1	350609	Regional Library Systems	\$0	\$0	\$494,000	\$494,000	N/A	0.00%
5CZ1	350607	Operating Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$4,527,036	\$4,527,474	N/A	0.01%
5GB0	350605	Library for the Blind	\$1,274,194	\$1,274,194	\$1,274,194	\$1,274,194	0.00%	0.00%
Dedicated Purpose Fund Group Subtotal			\$13,020,606	\$12,313,425	\$18,921,916	\$18,976,860	53.67%	0.29%
1390	350602	Services for State Agencies	\$0	\$1,045	\$8,000	\$8,000	665.64%	0.00%
Internal Service Activity Fund Group Subtotal			\$0	\$1,045	\$8,000	\$8,000	665.64%	0.00%
3130	350601	LSTA Federal	\$5,330,184	\$5,382,932	\$5,554,767	\$5,609,015	3.19%	0.98%
Federal Fund Group Subtotal			\$5,330,184	\$5,382,932	\$5,554,767	\$5,609,015	3.19%	0.98%
State Library Board Total			\$23,613,679	\$22,873,427	\$24,484,683	\$24,593,875	7.04%	0.45%