

Respiratory Care Board

Wendy Risner, Budget Analyst

- The Board received no funding for FY 2007 and will be consolidated into the Department of Health that year
- Licenses approximately 6,500 respiratory care professionals

OVERVIEW

Duties and Responsibilities

The Ohio Respiratory Care Board was established in 1989 by Sub. S.B. 300 of the 118th General Assembly. The Board regulates the practice of respiratory care by licensing properly qualified individuals, acting on complaints filed with the Board, and monitoring continuing education requirements. In addition, the Board recently acquired home medical equipment (HME) licensure and registration for certain HME facilities selling or renting HME equipment to the public in Ohio. The Board's fundamental mission is to efficiently provide services to both the public and the Board's licensees while ensuring public safety. The Board annually investigates all alleged complaints of the respiratory care law and monitors continuing education compliance. The Board also approves respiratory care educational programs and, when necessary, conducts on-site reviews.

Fund 4K9

The Ohio Respiratory Care Board is part of the 4K9 Fund group. The 4K9 Fund (Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Fund) is a General Services Fund that is a repository for license fees and other assessments collected by the state's professional and occupational licensing boards. The 4K9 Fund was established by Am. Sub. H.B. 152 of the 120th General Assembly. Prior to the creation of the fund, appropriations for each licensing board were made from the GRF. This created some problems as some boards contributed more revenues than they expended and others had to be subsidized by the GRF since the revenues generated did not meet their expenditures. The 4K9 Fund eliminated these problems. The philosophy of the fund is that each board must generate enough revenues to cover their expenses. It is also quite common for the boards to develop a surplus in the fund to cover unforeseen economic hardships.

Licensure

The Board currently administers approximately 6,500 licenses. The Board grants two types of licenses: respiratory care professional and limited permit. Respiratory care professional licenses are renewed biennially, while limited permits are renewed annually. Revenue is generated from new and renewal licensure fees. Expenditures are for operating expenses associated with the licensure, regulation, and enforcement processes. Revenues and expenditures for the FY 2003-2004 licensing cycle were \$724,062 and \$587,848 respectively. The Board contributed \$136,214 more to Fund 4K9 than it expended during the last renewal cycle.

Agency in Brief

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Number of Employees*	Total Appropriations-All Funds		GRF Appropriations		Appropriation Bill(s)
	2006	2007	2006	2007	
4*	\$441,987	\$0	\$0	\$0	Am. Sub. H.B. 66

*Employee count obtained from the Respiratory Care Board.

Summary of FY 2006-2007 Budget Issues**Board Consolidation**

In the enacted version of Am. Sub. H.B. 66 of the 126th General Assembly, 20 of the independent occupational licensing boards are to be consolidated into the departments of Health, Commerce, and Public Safety in FY 2007. As a result, the affected boards received no funding in FY 2007. In the case of the Respiratory Care Board, the Board and its duties will be consolidated into the Department of Health. The specifics of this transfer will be addressed during FY 2006 by a task force consisting of the departments of Commerce, Health, Public Safety, and Administrative Services, and the Office of Budget and Management (OBM), as well as three members selected from the affected boards. According to OBM, current staff will be retained through FY 2006 and a hiring freeze and early retirement incentive will be offered to regulatory board staff. Effective July 1, 2006, all remaining regulatory board staff will be transferred to the relevant agency. Board members will be retained.

ANALYSIS OF THE ENACTED BUDGET

For budget purposes, as detailed below, the Respiratory Care Board is considered a single program series agency and its activities are not subdivided into separate programs.

Program Series 1**Operating Expenses**

Purpose: To license and regulate the practice of respiratory care.

The following table shows the line items that are used to fund the Ohio Respiratory Care Board, as well as the enacted funding levels.

Fund	ALI	Title	FY 2006	FY 2007
General Services Fund				
4K9	872-609	Operating Expenses	\$441,987	\$0
General Services Fund Subtotal			\$441,987	\$0
Total Funding: Ohio Respiratory Care Board			\$441,987	\$0

Program Description: In accordance with Chapter 4761. of the Revised Code, the Ohio Respiratory Care Board regulates the profession of respiratory care by licensing properly qualified applicants, acts on complaints filed with the Board, and monitors continuing education compliance.

Funding Source: Licensing fees and other assessments deposited into GSF Fund 4K9

Implication of the Enacted Budget: The Board received funding of \$441,987 in FY 2006 and \$0 in FY 2007. The enacted funding for FY 2006 will allow the Board to carry out its mission and allow for the 4% increase in payroll. In FY 2007, the Board will be consolidated into the Department of Health. The specifics of this transfer will be addressed during FY 2006 by a task force consisting of the departments of Commerce, Health, Public Safety, Administrative Services, and the Office of Budget and Management, as well as three members selected by the affected boards.