

Greenbook
LSC Analysis of Enacted Budget

Environmental Review
Appeals Commission

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ATTACHMENT:

Budget Spreadsheet By Line Item

Environmental Review Appeals Commission

- GRF is sole funding source
- FY 2017 service and activity levels to be maintained under enacted budget
- IT upgrade project completed

OVERVIEW

Agency Overview

The Environmental Review Appeals Commission (EBR) is an appellate review board whose primary statutory duty is to hear and resolve appeals from certain legal actions taken by state and local governmental entities, including the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the State Fire Marshal, the State Emergency Response Commission, the Department of Agriculture, and local boards of health.¹

The Commission's office consists of three Commission members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Commission members serve staggered six-year terms; their salaries are fixed by the Governor. The members conduct hearings, review filings, and issue rulings, and are currently supported by two full-time staff (an executive director and one program administrator/staff attorney).

Appropriation Overview

The Commission's budget consists of one GRF line item to cover all of its operating expenses. As the table below illustrates, the budget appropriates \$608,205 for each of FY 2018 and FY 2019, an increase of 9.1% over FY 2017 expenditures of \$557,708.

Commission Appropriations by Fund Group, FY 2018-FY 2019 (Am. Sub. H.B. 49)					
Fund Group	FY 2017*	FY 2018	% change, FY 2017-FY 2018	FY 2019	% change, FY 2018-FY 2019
General Revenue	\$557,708	\$608,205	9.1%	\$608,205	0.0%

*FY 2017 figure represents actual expenditures.

¹ Any party adversely affected by an order of the Commission may appeal to the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas or, if the appeal arises from an alleged violation of a law or regulation, to the court of appeals of the district in which the violation was alleged to have occurred.

Information Technology Upgrade Project

In FY 2014, the Commission initiated an information technology upgrade project to provide electronic filing and an online case management system. The project work is complete as of the end of FY 2017 and most features have been implemented, with the exception of online case filing for which implementation is expected in FY 2018 following the formal adoption of relevant administrative rules.

An unexpected staff vacancy was left unfilled in order to finance the project. It was the Commission's judgment that their workload could be handled by the remaining two full-time staff and that the project was a much higher priority. The vacant position will remain unfilled through FY 2019.

ANALYSIS OF ENACTED BUDGET

Appropriations for the Environmental Review Appeals Commission				
Fund	ALI and Name		FY 2018	FY 2019
General Revenue Fund				
GRF	172321	Operating Expenses	\$608,205	\$608,205
Total Funding: Environmental Review Appeals Commission			\$608,205	\$608,205

Operating Expenses (GRF line item 172321)

This GRF line item funds all of the Commission's operating expenses. For that purpose, the budget appropriates \$608,205 in both FY 2018 and FY 2019, an annual amount that the Commission believes will be sufficient to maintain FY 2017 service and activity levels over the course of the FY 2018-FY 2019 biennium.

Around 80% of the line item's appropriation in each year is expected to be allocated for personal services (wages, salaries, fringe benefits, and payroll checkoff charges). The remainder will be allocated largely for supplies and maintenance.

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FY 2018 - FY 2019 Final Appropriation Amounts

All Fund Groups

Line Item Detail by Agency

			Appropriation	FY 2017 to FY 2018	Appropriation	FY 2018 to FY 2019		
			FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019		
					% Change	% Change		
Report For Main Operating Appropriations Bill			Version: As Enacted					
EBR Environmental Review Appeals Commission								
GRF	172321	Operating Expenses	\$ 564,451	\$ 557,708	\$ 608,205	9.05%	\$ 608,205	0.00%
General Revenue Fund Total			\$ 564,451	\$ 557,708	\$ 608,205	9.05%	\$ 608,205	0.00%
Environmental Review Appeals Commission Total			\$ 564,451	\$ 557,708	\$ 608,205	9.05%	\$ 608,205	0.00%