

Greenbook

LBO Analysis of Enacted Budget

State Speech and Hearing Professionals Board

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LBO Greenbook

State Speech and Hearing Professionals Board

Quick look...

- The State Speech and Hearing Professionals Board licenses about 10,000 speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and hearing aid dealers and fitters.
- The Board is governed by nine members appointed by the Governor.
- As a regulatory agency, the Board is fully supported by fees and receives no GRF funding.
- Appropriations total approximately \$1.3 million over the biennium.

FY 2016 Actual	FY 2017 Actual	FY 2018 Actual	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Appropriation	FY 2021 Appropriation
Fund 4K90 ALI 123609, Operating Expenses					
N/A	N/A	\$215,766	\$578,267	\$620,000	\$636,709
% change	N/A	N/A	168.0%	7.2%	2.7%

Agency overview

The State Speech and Hearing Professionals Board was established by H.B. 49 of the 132nd General Assembly, which combined the regulatory duties of the former State Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (SPE) Board and the Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Licensing (HADFL) Board (which was administered under the Ohio Department of Health). The Board began operations on January 21, 2018, so was only operating for a partial year in FY 2018, which explains the increase from FY 2018 to FY 2019 in the table above. The Board licenses speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and hearing aid dealers and fitters. The Board also establishes standards for education, standards of practice, and investigates complaints. Approximately 10,000 licenses issued by the Board are currently active.

The Board’s governing authority consists of nine members appointed by the Governor, including two speech-language pathologists, three audiologists, two hearing aid fitters, and two public members. The Board’s daily operations are the responsibility of an executive director who is appointed by the nine-member governing authority. Including the Executive Director, the Board has four full-time employees.

Analysis of FY 2020-FY 2021 budget

The Board’s operations are funded by a single line item appropriation from the Dedicated Purpose Fund Group. Through this one line item, the Board pays all of its expenses. The budget provides an appropriation of \$620,000 for FY 2020, which is an increase of 7.2% over FY 2019 expenditures, and \$636,709 in FY 2021, an increase of 2.7% over FY 2020.

Personal services is the biggest expense category for the Board, as it is for most regulatory agencies.

Licenses and fees

The Board issues speech-language pathologist and audiologist licenses, as well as licenses for hearing aid dealers and fitters. Speech-language pathologist and audiologist licenses are required to be renewed biennially. H.B. 420 of the 132nd General Assembly eliminated the statutorily specified fees for hearing aid dealers and fitters and required the Board to adopt rules establishing fee amounts. The Board anticipates these rules to be effective August 12, 2019. The bill also required a hearing aid dealer's or fitter's license to be renewed biennially rather than annually. The table below shows the current fee amount for each type of license and the proposed fees for hearing aid dealers and fitters.

License Fees by Type and Proposed Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Fees		
License Type	Current Fee	Proposed New Fee*
Speech-Language Pathology or Audiology License		
Initial	\$200	N/A
Renewal	\$120	N/A
Conditional	\$210	N/A
Dual License (Speech-Language Pathologist and Audiologist)		
Initial	\$400	N/A
Renewal	\$170	N/A
Speech-Language Pathologist/Audiologist Aide	\$50	N/A
Speech-Language Pathology Student Permit	\$50	N/A
Speech-Language Pathologist/Audiologist Inactive License	\$25	N/A
Hearing Aid Dealer or Fitter License		
Initial Dealer	\$262	\$200
Initial Fitter	\$262	\$262
Renewal	\$157-\$210**	\$120
Trainee Permit	\$150	\$150
Renewal	\$105	\$105

*Currently, hearing aid dealers and fitters licenses are issued annually. Proposed fees will be issued on a biennial basis.

**Varies depending on when this license is renewed.