

# Redbook

## LBO Analysis of Executive Budget Proposal

### Joint Legislative Ethics Committee

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# LBO Redbook

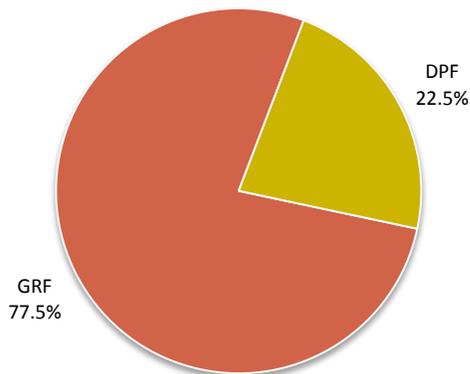
## Joint Legislative Ethics Committee

### Quick look...

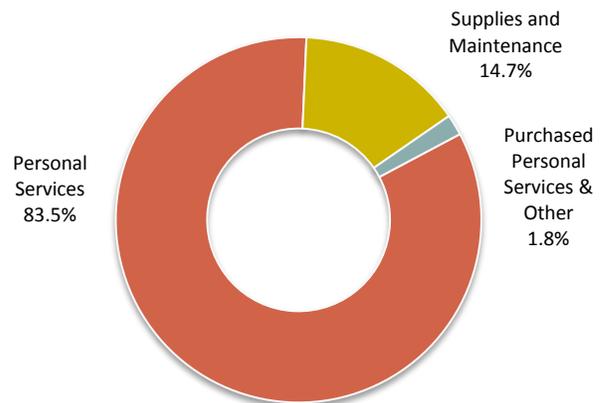
- The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee (JLEC) administers ethics laws related to members and employees of the General Assembly and lobbying laws related to legislative agents and executive agency lobbyists.
- JLEC is a 12-member legislative committee, which is assisted in its duties by the Office of the Legislative Inspector General (OLIG). The Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate each appoint six members to serve on the committee.
- OLIG has operated with a total of six employees since the office was created in 1994.
- The executive budget appropriates \$710,000 for each fiscal year.
  - Nearly 78% of JLEC’s funding is from the GRF. The remaining funding comes from the Dedicated Purpose Fund Group.
  - Uses of the budget are: 83.5% for personal services, 14.7% for supplies and maintenance, and 1.8% for purchased personal services and other.

Fund Group	FY 2018 Actual	FY 2019 Estimate	FY 2020 Introduced	FY 2021 Introduced
General Revenue	\$520,603	\$644,486	\$550,000	\$550,000
Dedicated Purpose	\$190,317	\$160,000	\$160,000	\$160,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$710,919</b>	<b>\$804,486</b>	<b>\$710,000</b>	<b>\$710,000</b>
% change	--	13.2%	-11.7%	0.0%
<i>GRF % change</i>	--	23.8%	-14.7%	0.0%

**Chart 1: JLEC Budget by Fund Group  
FY 2020-FY 2021 Biennium**



**Chart 2: JLEC Budget by Expense Category  
FY 2020-FY 2021 Biennium**



Biennial total: \$1.4 million

## Agency overview

The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee (JLEC) was created to serve the General Assembly and is charged with two primary responsibilities: (1) to administer the laws regarding ethics that relate to members and employees of the General Assembly and (2) to administer Ohio's lobbying laws governing the registration and reporting requirements of legislative agents, executive agency lobbyists, and their employers. Specific duties of JLEC include the following:

- Establishing and enforcing a standard code of ethics;
- Receiving and hearing complaints alleging breaches of privilege, misconduct, or ethics violations;
- Investigating and conducting hearings with respect to any complaint;
- Recommending appropriate sanctions for violators of the ethics code;
- Acting as an advisory body on questions relating to ethics, conflicts of interest, and financial disclosure;
- Conducting training sessions regarding ethics or lobbying regulations;
- Administering the annual financial disclosure forms of legislative officials and staff;
- Administering legislative, retirement system, and executive agency lobbyist registrations and filings; and
- Administering the post-employment disclosure law.

JLEC is a 12-member legislative committee, which is assisted in its duties by the Office of the Legislative Inspector General (OLIG). The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate each appoint six members from their respective chambers to serve on the legislative committee, with not more than three being from the same political party. OLIG consists of the Legislative Inspector General and five other full-time staff. OLIG has operated with a total of six employees since the office was created in 1994.

## Analysis of FY 2020-FY 2021 budget proposal

### Summary

R.C. 107.03(B) states that “no alterations shall be made in the [budget] requests for the legislative and judicial branches of the state filed with the director of budget and management . . . .” Therefore, the Governor has made no alterations to the budget request submitted by JLEC.

The chart above presents the total appropriations (FY 2020 and FY 2021 combined) by major object of expense. JLEC spends 83.5% of its budget on personal services, including salaries, benefits, and various other payroll-related charges. The next largest spending category is supplies and maintenance at 14.7%, followed by purchased personal services and other at 1.8%.

The table below shows the three appropriation line items that together support the operating expenses of JLEC. JLEC requested funding totaling \$710,000 for each fiscal year of the biennium.

FY 2016 Actual	FY 2017 Actual	FY 2018 Actual	FY 2019 Estimate	FY 2020 Introduced	FY 2021 Introduced
<b>GRF ALI 028321, Legislative Ethics Committee</b>					
\$518,787	\$598,672	\$520,603	\$644,486	\$550,000	\$550,000
% change	15.4%	-13.0%	23.8%	-14.7%	0.0%
<b>Fund 4G70 ALI 028601, Joint Legislative Ethics Committee</b>					
\$108,211	\$127,972	\$180,317	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
% change	18.3%	40.9%	-16.8%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Fund 5HNO ALI 028602, Investigations and Financial Disclosure</b>					
\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
% change	--	--	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

### **Joint Legislative Ethics Committee (ALIs 028321, 028601, and 028602)**

JLEC's three appropriation line items together support the operating expenses of the agency. The requested level of funding will allow JLEC to continue to provide the same level of services as provided in FY 2019. As indicated earlier, the GRF provides 77.5% of the funding for JLEC. This funding is appropriated to item 028321, Legislative Ethics Committee. JLEC also uses two dedicated purpose funds. Fund 4G70 receives revenue from a \$25 registration fee and a late filing fee of \$12.50 per day, up to \$100, paid by legislative agents, executive agency lobbyists, retirement system lobbyists, or their employers. Fund 5HNO receives its revenue from a \$40 financial disclosure statement filing fee and a late filing fee of \$10 per day, up to \$250, paid by members and designated staff of and candidates for the General Assembly.