

Redbook

LBO Analysis of Executive Budget Proposal

State Speech and Hearing Professionals Board

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LBO Redbook

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.
- Executive budget recommendations total approximately \$1.3 million over the biennium.
 - The proposed budget will allow the Board to maintain current service levels.
 - Uses of the budget: 69% for personnel cost, 25% for supplies and maintenance, and 6% for purchased personal services.

FY 2016 Actual	FY 2017 Actual	FY 2018 Actual	FY 2019 Estimate	FY 2020 Introduced	FY 2021 Introduced
Fund 4K90 ALI 123609, Operating Expenses					
N/A	N/A	\$215,766	\$615,704	\$620,000	\$636,709
% change	N/A	N/A	185.4%	0.7%	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) 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 establishes standards for education, preprofessional training, and examination. The Board also sets standards of practice, investigates complaints, holds administrative hearings, determines appropriate disciplinary actions, and monitors continuing education compliance among licensees. 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. Members are appointed for three-year terms. In addition to travel reimbursement, board members receive a per diem for the performance of official board business.

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. The Board receives no General Revenue Fund (GRF) money; it is completely supported by fees.

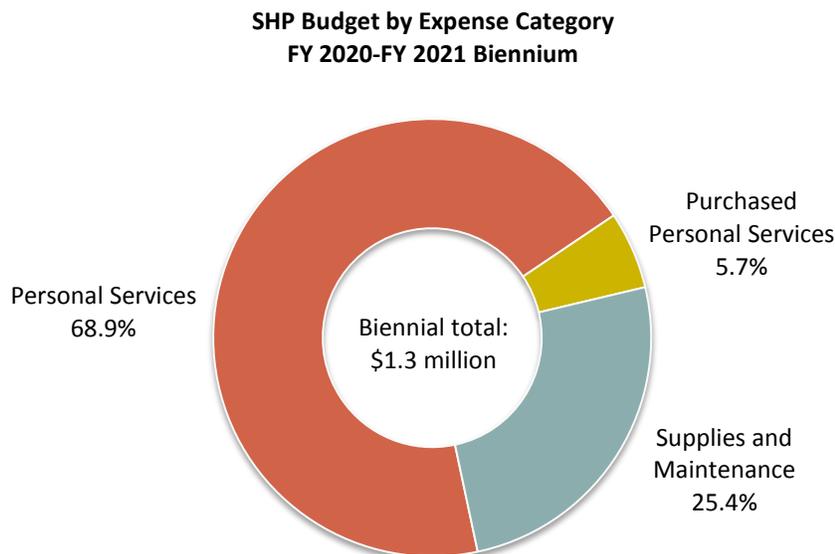
Analysis of FY 2020-FY 2021 budget proposal

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 proposed budget provides an appropriation of \$620,000 for FY 2020, which is an increase of 0.7% over FY 2019 estimated expenditures, and \$636,709 in FY 2021, an increase of 2.7% over FY 2020. According to the Executive Director, the proposed appropriations will allow the Board to provide the same level of services over the biennium and maintain current staff.

For the FY 2020-FY 2021 biennium, the Board plans to prioritize continuing education by ensuring that licensees have a high level of competency, and will also work to address shortages of licensees in all work settings. The Board will continue to work with the Ohio Department of Education and stakeholder groups to ensure that caseload ratios in school districts are set at appropriate levels.

Executive recommendations by expense category

As a regulatory agency, personal services is the largest expense category of the Board. As seen in the chart below, 68.9% of the proposed budget for the FY 2020-FY 2021 biennium are for personal services, 25.4% for supplies and maintenance, and 5.7% for purchased personal services.



As with many other licensing boards and commissions, the Board receives centralized administrative support services provided by the Central Service Agency (CSA) of the Department of Administrative Services. Services made available through CSA include budget development,

Controlling Board request preparation assistance, management consultation, procurement, fiscal processing, human resources, and payroll. These centralized services help increase overall efficiency. The Board pays CSA for services rendered. In FY 2018, the Board paid \$15,708 in CSA charges.¹ These payments are included in the supplies and maintenance category.

Operating revenues and expenses

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 1, 2019. The bill also required a hearing aid dealer's or fitter's license to be renewed biennially rather than annually. Table 1 below shows the current fee amount for each type of license and the proposed fees for hearing aid dealers and fitters.

Table 1. 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. There will be no impact on speech-language pathology or audiology licenses.

**Varies depending on when this license is renewed.

¹ The Board was in operations from January 21, 2018 through June 30, 2018.

Fee revenues collected by the Board are deposited into the Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Fund (Fund 4K90). Many occupational licensing and regulatory boards and commissions, including the State Speech and Hearing Professionals Board, use Fund 4K90 as an operating account into which receipts are deposited and from which expenses are paid. Each licensing board or commission is generally expected to be self-sufficient, i.e., generating enough revenue to cover its expenses.

Table 2 below shows the Board's annual revenues and expenditures from FY 2014 through FY 2018, as well as the net of revenues less expenditures. As noted above, the SHP Board was established under H.B. 49 of the 132nd General Assembly and began operations January 21, 2018 with the merger of SPE and HADFL. As such, revenues and expenditures for FY 2018 for SHP represent a partial year (January 21, 2018-June 30, 2018). For context, revenues and expenses for SHP and each of the abolished boards, as well as the combined total for all three boards, is provided to show the total financial activity associated with licensing speech and hearing professionals since FY 2014. The majority of revenues for the SHP Board will be collected in odd-numbered years.

Table 2. Revenues and Expenditures, FY 2014-FY 2018					
	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018*
SHP Revenues and Expenditures					
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$99,797
Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$215,766
Net	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-\$115,969
SPE Revenues and Expenditures					
Revenue	\$105,430	\$1,030,715	\$110,303	\$1,078,553	\$61,387
Expenses	\$434,952	\$509,023	\$485,626	\$521,913	\$293,208
Net	-\$329,522	\$521,692	-\$375,323	\$556,640	-\$231,821
HADFL Revenues and Expenditures					
Revenue	\$143,729	\$151,492	\$144,058	\$137,845	\$96,858
Expenses	\$171,721	\$202,955	\$183,556	\$139,402	\$109,194
Net	-\$27,992	-\$51,463	-\$39,498	-\$1,557	-\$12,336
Combined Revenues and Expenditures					
Revenue	\$249,159	\$1,182,207	\$254,361	\$1,216,398	\$258,042
Expenses	\$606,673	\$711,978	\$669,182	\$661,315	\$618,168
Net	-\$357,514	\$470,229	-\$414,821	\$555,083	-\$360,126

*FY 2018 represents a partial year of operations for all boards.

Licenses and investigation and enforcement statistics

The Board issues several types of speech-language and audiology licenses. Speech-language pathology and audiology licenses are available for individuals who have met academic and preprofessional requirements. Conditional licenses are valid for 18 months and available to individuals during the required supervision period prior to being eligible for a speech-language pathology or audiology license. The Board also issues hearing aid dealers and fitters licenses, as well as trainee permits. These licenses are currently required to be renewed annually. Table 3 shows the number of active licenses issued for FY 2018 compared with FY 2017.

Table 3. Active Licenses by Type, FY 2016-FY 2018

License Type	FY 2016*	FY 2017*	Percent Change	FY 2018	Percent Change
Audiology	1,050	1,037	-1.2%	1,056	1.8%
Audiology Aide	73	78	6.8%	89	14.1%
Speech-Language Pathology	7,192	7,177	-0.2%	7,655	6.7%
Speech-Language Pathology Aide	8	4	-50.0%	4	0.0%
Speech-Language Pathology Conditional License	309	288	-6.8%	484	68.1%
Dual Audiology Speech-Language Pathology	37	37	0.0%	38	2.7%
Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Individual License	415	411	-1.0%	409	-0.5%
Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Corporation License	242	239	-1.2%	226	-5.4%
Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Trainee Permits	51	47	-7.8%	57	21.3%
Total	9,377	9,318	-0.6%	10,018	7.5%

*Licenses in FY 2016 and FY 2017 were issued by the Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and the Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Licensing Board (administered by the Ohio Department of Health), which were abolished under H.B. 49 of the 132nd General Assembly.

The Board currently utilizes the eLicensing system, which is administered through CSA. All participating licensing boards share the cost of the system.

Investigations and enforcement

The Board investigates complaints about issues of incompetent, unethical, and/or impaired practitioners. Complaints received are reviewed to determine whether the Board has the legal authority to take action. The Board opened 70 cases in FY 2018, while 27 cases were carried over from FY 2017. In FY 2018, the most common complaint was for unprofessional/unethical conduct (19 cases). In that year, the Board completed 79 investigations. The Board entered into eight consent agreements, issued four adjudication orders, made ten referrals to other state agencies for investigation, and issued 17 educational letters.

Continuing education

The Board requires 20 hours of continuing education (CE) on a biennial basis for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology license renewals. Ten of the CE hours must be specific to clinical practice in the field of licensure. The Board requires ten hours of CE on an annual basis for hearing aid dealers and fitters. A list of Board CE requirements is posted on the Board's website (<http://shp.ohio.gov/>).