

Greenbook
LBO Analysis of Enacted Budget
State Employment Relations Board

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LBO Greenbook

State Employment Relations Board

Quick look...

- The State Employment Relations Board (SERB) oversees nearly 3,500 public employer collective bargaining contracts covering more than 377,000 public employees across the state.
- The State Personnel Board of Review (SPBR) is under the administrative umbrella of SERB and deals with matters concerning exempt and nonexempt employees in the classified civil service.
- The agency employs 21 full-time employees, two part-time employees, and six fixed-term board members (three for SERB and three for SPBR). The staff supports both SERB and SPBR.
- The budget provides approximately \$4.3 million in FY 2022 and \$4.5 million in FY 2023.

FY 2018 Actual	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Appropriation	FY 2023 Appropriation
GRF ALI 125321, Operating Expenses					
\$3,666,636	\$3,816,540	\$3,830,713	\$3,674,825	\$4,111,118	\$4,216,551
% change	4.1%	0.4%	-4.1%	11.9%	2.6%
Fund 5720 ALI 125603, Training and Publications					
\$147,765	\$87,218	\$154,120	\$20,270	\$172,160	\$242,173
% change	-41.0%	76.7%	-86.8%	749.3%	40.7%
Total funding:					
\$3,814,401	\$3,903,758	\$3,984,833	\$3,695,095	\$4,283,278	\$4,458,724
% change	2.3%	2.1%	-7.3%	15.9%	4.1%

Agency overview

The State Employment Relations Board (SERB) acts as a neutral party in carrying out Ohio's collective bargaining laws as they pertain to public employers and employees. Its responsibilities include overseeing representation elections, certifying exclusive bargaining representatives, monitoring and enforcing statutory dispute resolution procedures, mediating collective bargaining negotiations, adjudicating unfair labor practice charges, determining unauthorized strike claims, and providing information and training to parties in contract negotiations. Although the matters under its jurisdiction are different, the State Personnel Board of Review (SPBR) is under the administrative structure of SERB. SPBR is an appeals body that hears cases filed by classified exempt employees at the state and local levels but whose jurisdiction extends to other specific civil service matters. SERB and SPBR each have their own three-member boards.

Analysis of FY 2022-FY 2023 budget

Operating Expenses (125321)

Appropriations under this line item are \$4.1 million in FY 2022 and \$4.2 million in FY 2023. This funding covers the combined operating expenses of SERB and SPBR. As with most boards and commissions, the majority of funding goes to payroll costs, including board members, administrative law judges, labor relations specialists and mediators, researchers, and administrative staff. For FY 2021, these costs accounted for approximately \$3.3 million of the total \$3.7 million spent on SERB operations.

SERB consists of seven functional sections: (1) Bureau of Mediation, (2) Business and Records, (3) Clerk's Office, (4) Hearings, (5) Representation, (6) Research and Training, and (7) Unfair Labor Practices. More than 1,750 labor contract-related cases were filed with the Board in 2020, including 142 union election or representation issues, 260 unfair labor practice investigations, and 72 mediations. Although the Board's Research and Training Section typically produces around ten training sessions, conferences, and SERB academies annually, COVID-19 forced the cancelation of many of the events in FY 2020 and FY 2021, causing both a significant decline in attendance at these events and receipts collected from them.

SERB also produces an annual Health Insurance Report that summarizes the cost of health care in Ohio's public sector workplaces. Another key research product is the annual Wage Settlement Report that summarizes wage increase information contained in collective bargaining agreements across the state.

Training and Publications (125603)

Appropriations under this line item are \$172,160 in FY 2022 and \$242,173 in FY 2023. This funding is used to pay for research and training programs among the two boards. These activities are supported by the sale of various types of employee data collected by SERB, receipts from training seminars, and other sources of revenue deposited into the Training and Publications Fund (Fund 5720). Spending under this line item was just \$20,270 in FY 2021, off significantly from prior years because of COVID-19 restrictions that curtailed the number of training events that SERB could hold in FY 2021. Consequently, receipts from these sources totaled \$2,086 in that fiscal year. The FY 2022-FY 2023 biennium should see a return to more typical levels of activity.