

# Greenbook

## LBO Analysis of Enacted Budget

### Judicial Conference of Ohio

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# LBO Greenbook

## Judicial Conference of Ohio

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### Quick look...

- The Judicial Conference of Ohio (JCO) is charged with studying and recommending changes in the procedures and practices of Ohio’s court system.
- Total appropriations: \$1.6 million in FY 2022 and FY 2023.
- Sources of the budget: GRF (66.5%); state non-GRF (33.5%).
- The Conference has staff of eight full-time employees.

	FY 2018 Actual	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Appropriation	FY 2023 Appropriation
<b>GRF ALI 018321, Operating Expenses</b>						
	\$716,365	\$711,413	\$947,251	\$885,028	\$1,046,464	\$1,083,265
% change		-0.7%	33.2%	-6.6%	18.2%	3.5%
<b>DPF Fund 4030 ALI 018601, Ohio Jury Instructions</b>						
	\$326,840	\$461,834	\$421,770	\$348,769	\$531,471	\$540,421
% change		41.3%	-8.7%	-17.3%	52.4%	1.7%
<b>Total funding:</b>						
	\$1,043,205	\$1,173,247	\$1,369,021	\$1,233,797	\$1,577,935	\$1,623,686
% change		12.5%	16.7%	-9.9%	27.9%	2.9%

### Agency overview

The Judicial Conference of Ohio’s primary charge is to continually study and recommend changes in the procedures and practices of Ohio’s court system in an effort to promote a fair and effective administration of justice.<sup>1</sup> The Conference consists of all 723 active judges in Ohio, as well as six related judicial associations. The powers of the Conference are exercised, controlled, and conducted by its Executive Committee, which is comprised of approximately 50 judges.

The Conference has a staff of eight full-time employees, divided into two units: Legislative Services and Administration. Conference staff provide administrative and research support for 20 standing committees that involve hundreds of judges who volunteer their time. While judges

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<sup>1</sup> The Conference was created by the General Assembly in 1963 as a statutory entity within the judicial branch of state government. The Conference’s primary duties and responsibilities are codified in R.C. 105.91.

serving on committees receive no compensation for services rendered to the Conference, judges may receive reimbursement for reasonable and necessary expenses.

## **Analysis of FY 2022-FY 2023 budget**

### **Operating Expenses (ALI 018321)**

This GRF line item is the Conference's primary source of funding for its day-to-day operations. Relative to the line item's actual expenditures for FY 2021, the budget increases its FY 2022 appropriation by roughly \$161,400 (18.2%) and its FY 2023 appropriation by an additional \$37,000 (3.5%).

#### **State Council of Uniform State Laws<sup>2</sup>**

A temporary law provision requires up to \$96,305 in FY 2022 and up to \$99,194 in FY 2023 of the line item's appropriation be used to pay the expenses of the State Council of Uniform State Laws, including membership dues to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL).<sup>3</sup>

#### **Ohio Jury Instructions (ALI 018601)**

This non-GRF line item draws its appropriation from the Ohio Jury Instructions Fund (Fund 4030), which largely consists of: (1) annual membership dues and meeting, seminar, and conference fees and (2) royalties from the Conference's publication known as Ohio Jury Instructions. Historically, the Conference used the line item to support activities and services not directly related to its ongoing day-to-day business. This includes costs associated with meetings, conferences, seminars, printing, publishing, website maintenance and development, information technology, and other nonpersonnel activities. More recently, the Conference has shifted more of its expenses to this line item in order to reduce its reliance on GRF funding.

JCO/zg

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<sup>2</sup> The duty of the State Council, a four-person Ohio council of commissioners appointed by the Governor, is to study the prevailing law in the U.S. and other countries on subjects where uniformity is important.

<sup>3</sup> The Conference, a Chicago-based nonprofit unincorporated association largely comprised of state commissions of uniform laws, studies and reviews the law of the states to determine which areas of law should be uniform.