

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 licensed over 10,000 active speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and hearing aid dealers and fitters at the end of FY 2020.
- 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 and staff.
 - Uses of the budget: 65% for personnel cost, 33% for supplies and maintenance, and 2% for purchased personal services.

FY 2018 Actual	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Estimate	FY 2022 Introduced	FY 2023 Introduced
Fund 4K90 ALI 123609, Operating Expenses					
\$215,766	\$578,267	\$569,524	\$636,709	\$636,709	\$636,709
% change	168.0%	-1.5%	11.8%	0.0%	0.0%

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.

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.

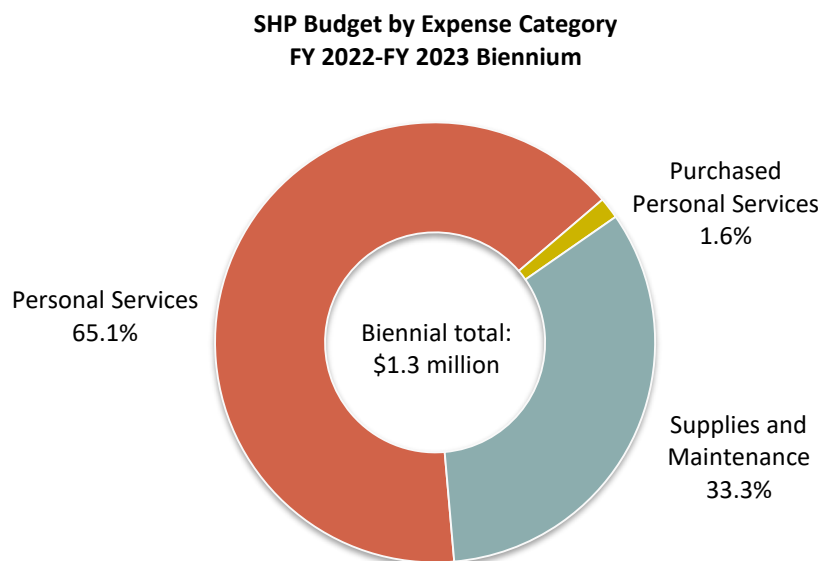
Analysis of FY 2022-FY 2023 budget proposal

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 \$636,709 for both FY 2022 and FY 2023, which is flat funded at FY 2021 estimated expenditures. 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 2022-FY 2023 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. Additionally, the Board anticipates that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration will finalize regulations for the sale of over-the-counter hearing aids. The Board anticipates the need to adopt, amend, or rescind rules related to the advertising and sale of these items.

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, 65.1% of the proposed budget for the FY 2022-FY 2023 biennium are for personal services, 33.3% for supplies and maintenance, and 1.6% 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 2020, the Board paid \$16,369 in CSA charges.

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 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.

Table 1. License Fees by Type	
License Type	Current Fee
Speech-Language Pathology or Audiology License	
Initial	\$200
Renewal	\$120
Conditional	\$210
Dual License (Speech-Language Pathologist and Audiologist)	
Initial	\$400
Renewal	\$170
Speech-Language Pathologist/Audiologist Aide	\$50
Speech-Language Pathology Student Permit	\$50
Speech-Language Pathologist/Audiologist Inactive License	\$25
Hearing Aid Dealer or Fitter License	
Initial Dealer	\$200
Initial Fitter	\$262
Renewal	\$120
Trainee Permit	\$150
Renewal	\$105

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 2016 through FY 2020, 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 2016. The majority of revenues for the SHP Board will be collected in odd-numbered years.

Table 2. Revenues and Expenditures, FY 2016-FY 2020					
	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018*	FY 2019	FY 2020
SHP Revenues and Expenditures					
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$99,797	\$1,296,776	\$144,891
Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$215,766	\$578,267	\$569,524
Net	\$0	\$0	-\$115,969	\$718,509	-\$424,633
SPE Revenues and Expenditures					
Revenue	\$110,303	\$1,078,553	\$61,387	\$0	\$0
Expenses	\$485,626	\$521,913	\$293,208	\$0	\$0
Net	-\$375,323	\$556,640	-\$231,821	\$0	\$0
HADFL Revenues and Expenditures					
Revenue	\$144,058	\$137,845	\$96,858	\$0	\$0
Expenses	\$183,556	\$139,402	\$109,194	\$0	\$0
Net	-\$39,498	-\$1,557	-\$12,336	\$0	\$0
Combined Revenues and Expenditures					
Revenue	\$254,361	\$1,216,398	\$258,042	\$1,296,776	\$144,891
Expenses	\$669,182	\$661,315	\$618,168	\$578,267	\$569,524
Net	-\$414,821	\$555,083	-\$360,126	\$718,509	-\$424,633

*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 pathology 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. As noted above, these licenses are required to be renewed biennially. Table 3 shows the number of active licenses issued for FY 2020 compared with FY 2019.

License Type	FY 2018	FY 2019	Percent Change	FY 2020	Percent Change
Audiology	1,056	1,038	-1.7%	1,087	4.7%
Audiology Aide	89	76	-14.6%	89	17.1%
Speech-Language Pathology	7,655	7,470	-2.4%	7,875	5.4%
Speech-Language Pathology Aide	4	3	-25.0%	5	66.7%
Speech-Language Pathology Conditional License	484	333	-31.2%	371	11.4%
Dual Audiology Speech-Language Pathology	38	33	-13.2%	33	0.0%
Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Individual License	409	422	3.2%	443	5.0%
Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Corporation License	226	214	-5.3%	230	7.5%
Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Trainee Permits	57	59	3.5%	49	-16.9%
Total	10,018	9,648	-3.7%	10,182	5.5%

*As reported to LSC for the Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Board Report. No inactive licenses are included in the table above.

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 56 cases in CY 2020, while 35 cases were carried over from CY 2019. In CY 2020, the most common complaints were for license renewal issues (15 cases) and unprofessional/unethical conduct (15 cases). In that year, the Board completed 61 investigations. The Board entered into seven consent agreements, issued two

adjudication orders, made five referrals to other state agencies for investigation, and issued 13 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 also requires 20 hours of CE on a biennial basis for hearing aid dealers and fitters. More information about CE requirements is posted on the Board's website (<http://shp.ohio.gov/>).