

Redbook

LBO Analysis of Executive Budget Proposal

State Vision Professionals Board

Jacquelyn Schroeder, Senior Budget Analyst
February 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Quick look	1
Agency overview	1
Analysis of FY 2022-FY 2023 budget proposal	2
Executive recommendations by expense category	2
Operating revenues and expenses	3
Licensure	4
Investigations and enforcement.....	5
Continuing education.....	5

LBO Redbook

State Vision Professionals Board

Quick look...

- The State Vision Professionals Board employs a staff of four and licenses optometrists, ocularists, and optical dispensers.
- The Board is governed by seven members appointed by the Governor.
- As a regulatory agency, the Board is fully supported by fees and receives no GRF funding.
- No proposed fee changes for the FY 2022-FY 2023 biennium.
- 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.
 - Approximate uses of the budget: 68% for personnel costs, 31% for supplies and maintenance, and 1% 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 129609, Operating Expenses					
\$232,146	\$487,671	\$553,118	\$654,140	\$654,140	\$654,140
% change	110.1%	13.4%	18.3%	0.0%	0.0%

Agency overview

The State Vision Professionals Board (VPB) was established by H.B. 49 of the 132nd General Assembly, which combined the regulatory duties of the former State Board of Optometry (OPT) and Ohio Optical Dispensers Board (ODB). 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 issues optometry and optical dispenser licenses and certifications, conducts investigations of complaints, enforces continuing education requirements, and approves continuing education programs.

The Board's governing authority consists of seven members appointed by the Governor, including four optometrists, two dispensing opticians, and one public member. Members are appointed for three-year terms and are limited to three consecutive terms on the Board. The Board meets at least four times per year. In addition to travel reimbursement, Board members are paid a per diem for time spent conducting Board business.

The Board's daily operations are the responsibility of an executive director appointed by the seven-member governing authority. Including the Executive Director, the Board has four full-time employees. The Board receives no General Revenue Fund (GRF) dollars; it is entirely supported by fees.

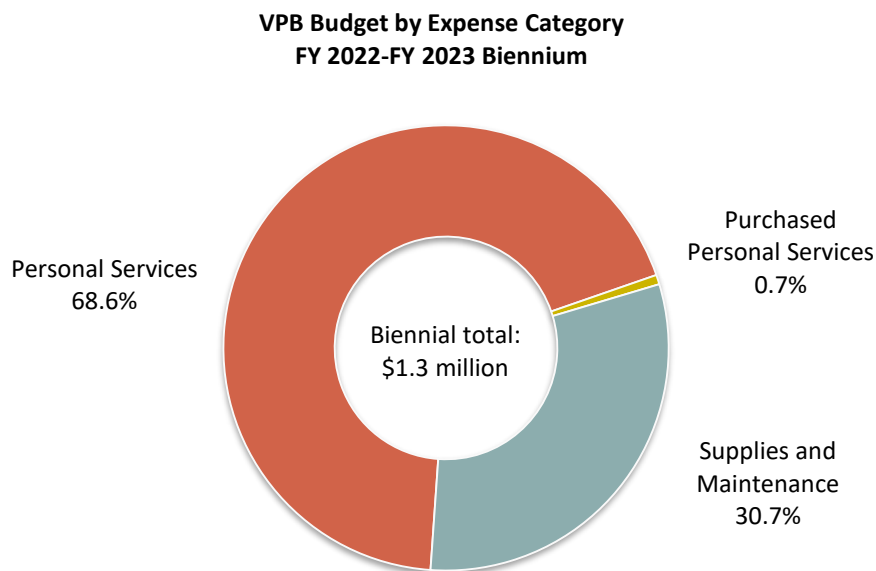
Analysis of FY 2022-FY 2023 budget proposal

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 \$654,140 for both FY 2022 and FY 2023, which is flat funded at FY 2021 estimated expenditures. According to the Board, 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 ensure professional competence among all licensees while increasing efficiencies through automation and prioritizing cost containment.

Executive recommendations by expense category

As a regulatory agency, personal services is the Board's largest expense category. As shown in the chart below, 68.6% of the proposed budget for the FY 2022-FY 2023 biennium are for personal services, 30.7% for supplies and maintenance, and 0.7% 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 items such as budget development, Controlling Board request preparation assistance, management consultation, procurement, fiscal processing, human resources, and payroll. The Board pays CSA for services rendered. In FY 2020, the Board paid approximately \$14,600 in CSA charges.

Operating revenues and expenses

The Board issues and renews optometry and optical dispenser licenses, as well as other related registrations and certifications. The renewal fee is waived for optometrists on active duty in the military; 14 optometrists were on active duty in FY 2020. Licenses are issued annually by the Board. Table 1 below shows the current fee amount for each type of license. There are additional fees for late submission and license reinstatement.

Table 1. License Fees by Type	
License Type	Fee
Optometrists	
Optometrist License*	\$130
Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents Certificate*	\$45
Optical Dispensers and Ocularists	
Optician and Ocularist Initial License	\$50
License Renewal	\$100
Registered Apprentice*	\$20

*Initial and renewal fees are the same.

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 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 revenues to cover its expenses.

Table 2 below shows the Board's annual revenues and expenditures from FY 2015 through FY 2020 as well as the net of revenues less expenditures. As noted above, the Board was established under H.B. 49 of the 132nd General Assembly and became effective January 21, 2018, with the merger of OPT and ODB. As such, revenues and expenditures for FY 2018 for the VPB Board represent a partial year (January 21, 2018-June 30, 2018). For context, revenues and expenses for each of the abolished boards, as well as the combined total for all three boards, are provided to show the financial activity associated with licensing vision professionals since FY 2015.

Table 2. Revenues and Expenditures, FY 2015-FY 2020						
	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018*	FY 2019	FY 2020
VPB Revenues and Expenditures						
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$53,566	\$786,806	\$770,347
Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$232,146	\$487,671	\$553,118
Net	\$0	\$0	\$0	-\$178,580	\$299,135	\$217,229

Table 2. Revenues and Expenditures, FY 2015-FY 2020						
	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018*	FY 2019	FY 2020
OPT Revenues and Expenditures						
Revenue	\$421,410	\$405,660	\$409,785	\$406,464	\$0	\$0
Expenses	\$319,125	\$322,052	\$345,829	\$225,036	\$0	\$0
Net	\$102,285	\$83,608	\$63,956	\$181,428	\$0	\$0
ODB Revenues and Expenditures						
Revenue	\$373,595	\$366,585	\$365,415	\$324,873	\$0	\$0
Expenses	\$351,397	\$364,184	\$365,396	\$225,448	\$0	\$0
Net	\$22,198	\$2,401	\$19	\$99,425	\$0	\$0
Combined Revenues and Expenditures						
Revenue	\$795,005	\$772,245	\$775,200	\$784,903	\$786,806	\$770,347
Expenses	\$670,522	\$686,236	\$711,225	\$682,630	\$487,671	\$553,118
Net	\$124,483	\$86,009	\$63,975	\$102,273	\$299,135	\$217,229

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

Licensure

To carry out its regulatory responsibility, the Board establishes standards of practice and issues optometry and optical dispenser licenses, certifications, and registrations. The Board also renews diagnostic optometry certifications.¹ An optometry, optician, or ocularist license is available for individuals meeting academic, preprofessional, and examination requirements. A therapeutic certification is available for licensed optometrists who meet the study and examination requirements. An optometrist who is issued a therapeutic certification may employ, apply, administer, and prescribe certain devices, procedures, and pharmaceuticals that are determined to be appropriate for use in the practice of optometry as specified in rules adopted by the Board. A registered apprentice is someone who is gaining the necessary supervised work experience to be eligible for licensure as an optical dispenser.

As seen in Table 3 below, therapeutic optometry and optician licenses represented approximately 75% of total licenses issued by the Board in FY 2020. The number of active therapeutic licenses has grown slightly from FY 2019 to FY 2020. As would be expected, the

¹ This type of certification is no longer available to optometrists licensed after 1992. An optometrist who received a diagnostic certification prior to 1992 may administer topical ocular pharmaceutical agents for evaluation purposes only. Optometrists licensed prior to 1992, with or without diagnostic certification, may continue to practice and renew the license and certification they currently hold until they retire or stop practicing.

number of general optometry and diagnostic optometry licenses is declining as those optometrists retire.

License Type	FY 2018	FY 2019	Percent Change	FY 2020	Percent Change
Therapeutic Optometrist	2,276	2,299	1.0%	2,334	1.5%
Diagnostic Optometrist	13	11	-15.4%	10	-9.1%
Optometrist Only	14	12	-14.3%	12	0.0%
Military	14	14	0.0%	14	0.0%
Optician	3,062	3,044	-0.6%	2,951	-3.1%
Ocularist	8	8	0.0%	8	0.0%
Apprentice Registration*	2,016	1,880	-6.7%	1,756	-6.6%
Total	7,403	7,268	-1.8%	7,085	-2.5%

*Includes multiple registrations.

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's regulatory obligations also include investigating complaints about issues of incompetent, unethical, and impaired practitioners. According to the Board, in 2020, the Board investigated 78 formal complaints, of which 72 were closed. The Board also conducts unannounced onsite inspections to check for compliance with the Board's laws and rules.

Continuing education

For license renewal, the Board requires that optometrists complete 25 continuing education hours; ten of those hours must be related to pharmacology. Ocularists are required to complete four hours of continuing education. Of this amount, one hour must cover communicable diseases. The requirements for opticians vary depending on the type of optical aids the optician dispenses. Continuing education programs must be approved by the Board. A list of approved programs and activities is posted on the Board's website (<https://vision.ohio.gov/>).