

- Commission may not be able to fill an advisory attorney position
- GRF appropriations increase 6.7% from FY 2002 to FY 2003

Ethics Commission

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ROLE

The Ohio Ethics Commission (ETH) administers, interprets, and enforces ethical conduct in government under Ohio Ethics Law. The commission promotes and enforces ethical conduct throughout state and local government through impartial and responsive education, advice, investigation, and financial disclosure processes. To fulfill its role, the commission has improved educational and informational access to thousands of public servants to create a baseline understanding of Ethics Law.


Agency In Brief					
Number of Employees	Total Appropriations-All Funds		GRF Appropriations		Appropriation Bill(s)
	2002	2003	2002	2003	
22	\$1.7 million	\$1.8 million	\$1.3 million	\$1.4 million	Am. Sub. H.B. 94

OVERVIEW

The commission's total budget increased by 1.4 percent from FY 2001 to FY 2002, although compared to FY 2001 actual expenditures, FY 2002 appropriations are 6.1 percent higher. The commission was appropriated \$3,319,890 for the FY 2000-2001 biennium but actual expenditures totaled \$3,145,207, a difference of \$174,683. Total appropriations increase by 6.6 percent from FY 2002 to FY 2003. For the FY 2002-2003 biennium, the commission requested \$3,853,870 but received \$3,495,635.

Due to reduced biennial funding, the commission will be unable to fill its vacant advisory staff attorney position. This will have a direct impact on the ability of the commission to respond in a timely fashion to the increasing number of advisory requests. In addition, due to the lack of funding, the commission will be unable to pursue an online financial disclosure filing alternative and meet all of its training goals during the next biennium. Operations and equipment costs of the agency have been cut to the minimum level.

The governor vetoed General Assembly provisions in Am. Sub. H.B. 94 to increase financial disclosure filing statement fees and a provision that would require a reduction of general revenue funding in an amount corresponding to the increase in fee revenue.

Am Sub. H.B. 94 includes a new provision regarding information disclosure that allows the commission to disclose investigative information to law enforcement agencies, appropriate prosecuting authorities, other ethics commissions, and the Ohio Inspector General. 

FY 2002 - 2003 Final Appropriation Amounts

All Fund Groups

Line Item Detail by Agency

FY 1999: *FY 2000:* *FY 2001:* **FY 2002** *% Change* **FY 2003** *% Change*
Appropriations: *Appropriations:* *Appropriations:* *2001 to 2002:* *Appropriations:* *2002 to 2003:*

Report For: Main Operating Appropriations Bill

Version: Enacted

ETH Ethics Commission

GRF	146-100	Personal Services	\$ 963,553	\$ 0		----	N/A	----	N/A
GRF	146-200	Maintenance	\$ 208,539	\$ 0		----	N/A	----	N/A
GRF	146-300	Equipment	\$ 20,927	\$ 0		----	N/A	----	N/A
GRF	146-321	Operating Expenses	\$ 0	\$ 1,269,579	\$1,301,331	\$ 1,305,827	0.35%	\$ 1,393,780	6.74%
General Revenue Fund Total			\$ 1,193,019	\$ 1,269,579	\$ 1,301,331	\$ 1,305,827	0.35%	\$ 1,393,780	6.74%
4M6	146-601	Operating Expenses	\$ 172,679	\$ 280,511	\$293,786	\$ 386,485	31.55%	\$ 409,543	5.97%
General Services Fund Group Total			\$ 172,679	\$ 280,511	\$ 293,786	\$ 386,485	31.55%	\$ 409,543	5.97%
<i>Ethics Commission Total</i>			\$ 1,365,698	\$ 1,550,090	\$ 1,595,117	\$ 1,692,312	6.09%	\$ 1,803,323	6.56%