

- Motor vehicle fee increases to generate \$181 million annually
- Various homeland security initiatives funded

Public Safety, Department of

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ROLE

The Department of Public Safety is charged with various responsibilities of which the intended impact is to save lives and reduce injuries. The agency is organized into six divisions in order to accomplish this mission. These divisions are the State Highway Patrol, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, the Emergency Management Agency, the Investigative Unit, Emergency Medical Services, and Administration.

Agency In Brief					
Number of Employees*	Total Appropriations-All Funds		GRF Appropriations		Appropriation Bill(s)
	2004	2005	2004	2005	
4,003	\$596.4 million	\$610.7 million	\$4.9 million	\$4.9 million	Am. Sub. H.B. 87 Am. Sub. H.B. 95

*Employee head count obtained from the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) payroll reports as of June 28, 2003.

OVERVIEW

Total FY 2004 appropriations amount to \$596,397,270, a 36.8% increase over FY 2003 spending of \$435,923,999. Fiscal Year 2005 appropriations increase by 2.4% to \$610,696,116. A large portion of the FY 2004 increase, \$118 million, is attributable to an increase in appropriation authority for Federal funds related to counter-terrorism. That amount has not been granted to Ohio, and only represents authority to spend, not the actual amount that is likely to be spent.

BUDGET ISSUES

MOTOR VEHICLE FEES

Am. Sub. H.B. 87 incrementally removes the State Highway Patrol from motor fuel tax funding over the next few fiscal years, ending with FY 2007. Replacement funding will be generated by motor vehicle fee increases included in the bill. Driver's license fees are increased by \$12, from \$6 to \$18,¹⁰ vehicle

¹⁰ Persons under 21 years of age are charged a different fee, between \$2.25 and \$7.25, depending on the person's age. Therefore, the new fee for these persons will be between \$14.25 and \$19.25.

registration fees are increased by \$11, from \$23.25 to \$34.25,¹¹ and temporary license placard fees are increased by \$5, from \$4 to \$9, effective October 1, 2003. These increases are expected to generate \$181 million annually for the purposes of supporting the operations of the Patrol.

Motor Vehicle Fee Increases					
Driver's License		Vehicle Registration		Temporary License Placard	
<i>Prior Fee</i>	<i>10/01/03</i>	<i>Prior Fee</i>	<i>10/01/03</i>	<i>Prior Fee</i>	<i>10/01/03</i>
\$6.00	\$18.00	\$23.25	\$34.25	\$4.00	\$9.00

HOMELAND SECURITY AND ANTI-TERRORISM

Am. Sub. H.B. 95 creates the Division of Homeland Security within the Department of Public Safety. It is charged with the responsibility of coordinating state agencies and local governments in their efforts to prevent and respond to terrorism. Am. Sub. H.B. 87 includes \$129 million in appropriation authority for homeland security funding from the Federal government. The amount of actual federal grants is uncertain, and officials from the Department of Public Safety have indicated that Ohio is unlikely to receive such sizable grants from the Federal government. The budget contains other funding related to homeland security, such as additional funding for Troopers to provide security at state buildings.

NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR BMV

Am. Sub. H.B. 87 includes \$13.9 million in funding to replace both the mainframe in FY 2004 and the Automated Title Processing System (ATPS) in FY 2005. The ATPS is the system used by the 88 county clerks of courts to administer vehicle titles to Ohio's citizens. The BMV mainframe stores records on license suspensions, reinstatements, etc. It is accessed daily by law enforcement officials in the course of their duties.


MARCS (MULTI-AGENCY RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM)

The Department of Public Safety will be one of the heaviest users of the Multi-Agency Radio Communications System, or MARCS. Fourteen state agencies will eventually use MARCS. Within the Department of Public Safety, the Highway Patrol, Emergency Management Agency, and the Investigative Unit will be users.

¹¹ This figure is for passenger vehicles and includes state fees and state taxes. Other vehicles, such as motorcycles and commercial trucks, have different registration fees and taxes, ranging from \$13.25 for mopeds to \$1,630 for buses with a gross vehicle weight over 78,000 pounds. Political subdivisions may add further taxes, up to \$20, on motor vehicle registrations.

The first phase of MARCS is complete and is functioning in 13 counties in central Ohio. Another 30 counties should be added to the system by October 2003. The State Highway Patrol will be responsible for the system's maintenance and will need to hire additional dispatchers who are trained in the capabilities provided by MARCS, such as computer-aided dispatching. The Emergency Management Agency operates the MARCS transportable communications system. The Department of Administrative Services operates the system.

CROSS-COUNTY TITLING REIMBURSEMENT

Sub. S. B. 59 of the 124th General Assembly allows Ohioans to title their motor vehicles in any of Ohio's 88 counties; they are no longer restricted to their county of residence. Because auto dealerships process the titling of the car for the purchaser, dealerships are titling in the county most convenient for them. This has caused a shift in titling revenue from counties of residence to counties of convenience for the dealerships. Under Sub. S.B. 59, the Department of Public Safety is to reimburse counties losing revenue due to cross-county titling at a 100% rate in the first year, a 75% rate in the second year, and a 50% rate in the third. Reimbursements began in April 2002, and for the year, DPS spent \$1,281,361 reimbursing counties for cross-county titling losses. This money comes from the Automated Title Processing Board Fund. The budget includes \$990,000 in FY 2004 and \$540,000 in FY 2005 for Sub. S.B. 59 reimbursement. 

FY 2004 - 2005 Final Appropriation Amounts

All Fund Group

Line Item Detail by Agency

FY 2001: FY 2002: FY 2003: FY 2004 % Change FY 2005 % Change
Appropriations: Appropriations: Appropriations: 2003 to 2004: Appropriations: 2004 to 2005:

Report For: Main Operating Appropriations Bill

Version: Enacted

DHS Public Safety, Department of

GRF	763-403	Operating Expenses - EMA	\$ 3,973,523	\$ 4,041,668	\$4,047,579	\$ 4,058,188	0.26%	\$ 4,058,188	0.00%
GRF	763-409	MARCS Operations & Maintenance	\$ 418,550	---	\$0	\$ 0	N/A	\$ 0	N/A
GRF	763-507	Individual and Households Grants	\$ 621,218	\$ 663	\$212,977	\$ 48,750	-77.11%	\$ 48,750	0.00%
GRF	764-404	Transportation Enforcement Operation	\$ 1,926,092	\$ 2,965,763	\$8,880	\$ 0	-100.00%	\$ 0	N/A
GRF	769-321	Food Stamp Trafficking Enforcement O	\$ 858,185	\$ 835,784	\$784,054	\$ 800,000	2.03%	\$ 800,000	0.00%
General Revenue Fund Total			\$ 7,797,568	\$ 7,843,877	\$ 5,053,490	\$ 4,906,938	-2.90%	\$ 4,906,938	0.00%
5E2	763-634	County Emergency Preparedness	\$ 1,000,000	---	\$0	---	N/A	---	N/A
State Special Revenue Fund Group Total			\$ 1,000,000	---	\$ 0	---	N/A	---	N/A
Public Safety, Department of Total			\$ 8,797,568	\$ 7,843,877	\$ 5,053,490	\$ 4,906,938	-2.90%	\$ 4,906,938	0.00%