

- The Board of Nursing now certifies community health workers.
- New fees for IV therapy cards, out-of-state surveys, and continuing education activities

Nursing, Board of

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ROLE

The mission of the Board of Nursing is to promote and protect the health of Ohioans through the safe and effective practice of nursing. Comprised of a 13-member board appointed by the Governor and a staff of 55 employees, the Board regulates more than 182,000 individuals in the field of nursing. Chapter 4723. of the Revised Code provides statutory authority for the Board's activities and requires the Board to protect the public against unqualified R.N.s and L.P.N.s. Additionally, the Board provides oversight for nursing education programs and continuing nurse education requirements.

Agency In Brief					
Number of Employees*	Total Appropriations-All Funds		GRF Appropriations		Appropriation Bill(s)
	2004	2005	2004	2005	
68	\$5.2 million	\$5.3 million	\$0	\$0	Am. Sub. H.B. 95

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

OVERVIEW

Appropriations for the Board of Nursing total \$5,237,776 in fiscal year (FY) 2004, a 14.21% increase over FY 2003 expenditures, and \$5,262,576 in FY 2005, a 0.47% increase over FY 2004 appropriations. All but \$5,000 of the funds appropriated to the Board of Nursing are located in the Occupational and Licensing Board Fund, Fund 4K9. This fund is the depository of licensing fee revenue and fines for 24 occupational licensing boards. These moneys are used for board operating costs, with around 71% of these funds for payroll and other related expenses, and approximately 23% for rent and other maintenance expenses. The remaining \$5,000 in each fiscal year can be found in the Nursing Special Issues Fund, Fund 5P8. It is anticipated that these moneys will be used to support a Comprehensive Nursing Workforce Planning Center.

The Board will undertake some new mandates during the 2004-2005 biennium. Am. Sub. H.B. 327 of the 124th General Assembly modified the Nurse Practice Act to require applicants for licensure to undergo a criminal records check. Furthermore, Am. Sub. H.B. 95 of the 125th General Assembly requires the Board to certify community health workers. It also creates the Nurse Education Grant Program to aid in increasing enrollment capacity at nursing schools. The Board has also issued new fees and raised fees, which will help cover the expenses associated with the expansion of Board responsibilities and programs.

BUDGET ISSUES

NEW FEES AND FEE INCREASES

The Board of Nursing has raised several fees and also has the ability to levy new fees for new programs and initiatives. The majority of revenue collected from these fees will be deposited into Fund 4K9. Only the fees charged for continuing education credits are deposited into a different fund (Fund 5P8). The new fees and fee increases will generate about \$5 million more in revenue for the Board over the biennium. Total revenue is expected to be \$12.7 million.

The new fees include a \$25 fee for the issuance of IV Therapy cards; however, those individuals receiving their card through a course of study in a pre-licensure education program will not be charged the fee. An out-of-state survey fee of \$2,000 will be assessed to out of state schools that provide nursing education in Ohio. This fee covers the cost of visiting the main campus to ensure the school is in compliance with the Board's standards. Finally, a new fee will be levied for Board-sponsored continuing education activities. These funds will be used to maintain a program that addresses patient safety and health care issues related to the supply of, and demand for, nurses and other health care workers.

The table below lists the fee changes and estimated additional revenues.

Nursing Board Fee Changes				
Fund 4K9	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	FY 2004 Additional Revenue	FY 2005 Additional Revenue
Renewal Fee Increase	\$45	\$65	\$2,758,060	\$806,880
Examination and Licensure Endorsement	\$50	\$75	\$172,325	\$172,325
Paper License Verification	\$5	\$10	\$750	\$750
Duplicate License Issuance	\$15	\$25	\$10,790	\$10,790
Issuance of IV Therapy Card	N/A	\$25	\$15,825	\$15,825
Out-of-state Survey Visits	N/A	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Fund 4K9 Subtotal			\$2,959,705	\$1,008,525
Fund 5P8				
Continuing Education Credits	N/A	\$15/activity	\$500,000	\$500,000
Fund 5P8 Subtotal			\$500,000	\$500,000
Total			\$3,459,750	\$1,508,570


NURSE EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

Am. Sub. H.B. 95 of the 125th General Assembly created the Nurse Education Grant Program to be administered by the Ohio Nursing Board. The program is to award joint grants to nurse education programs, health care facilities, and community health agencies, to fund partnerships that increase the enrollment capacity of nurse education programs. Ten dollars of each biennial licensing fee is to be transferred to the Nurse Education Grant Program Fund to provide moneys for the program. It is estimated that \$1.78 million will be transferred over the biennium.

CERTIFICATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

The Ohio Nursing Board is responsible for the certification of community health workers. The Board estimates that there are between 200 and 300 community health workers in Ohio. Community health workers facilitate access to health care by helping direct people in need of health care to the proper professional. Registered nurses can delegate some responsibilities to community health workers, such as taking a person's blood pressure. Community health workers cannot administer medications. The Board will define their scope of practice via the rules process. A fee will be charged for the certification. At this time, the fee has not been determined, but it will help to cover the costs associated with certifying community health workers.

LICENSING SYSTEM

The occupational licensing boards, in partnership with the Department of Administrative Services (DAS), are working to implement a new licensing system. The system will be phased in over the next biennium and each board will pay its share of the costs out of Fund 4K9. The Nursing Board estimates spending \$423,500 over the biennium for this system. 

FY 2004 - 2005 Final Appropriation Amounts

All Fund Group

Line Item Detail by Agency			FY 2001:	FY 2002:	FY 2003:	FY 2004 Appropriations:	% Change 2003 to 2004:	FY 2005 Appropriations:	% Change 2004 to 2005:
Report For: Main Operating Appropriations Bill			Version: Enacted						
NUR Nursing, Board of									
5P8	884-601	Nursing Special Issues	---	---	\$5,000	\$ 5,000	0.00%	\$ 5,000	0.00%
4K9	884-609	Operating Expenses	\$ 3,955,552	\$ 4,516,159	\$4,581,109	\$ 5,232,776	14.23%	\$ 5,257,576	0.47%
General Services Fund Group Total			\$ 3,955,552	\$ 4,516,159	\$ 4,586,109	\$ 5,237,776	14.21%	\$ 5,262,576	0.47%
Nursing, Board of Total			\$ 3,955,552	\$ 4,516,159	\$ 4,586,109	\$ 5,237,776	14.21%	\$ 5,262,576	0.47%