

# Greenbook

## LBO Analysis of Enacted Budget

### Ohio Athletic Commission

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## Ohio Athletic Commission

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### Quick look...

- The Ohio Athletic Commission (ATH) regulates boxing, mixed martial arts, professional wrestling, kickboxing, karate, and tough person contests, issuing 1,800 credentials to competitors, promoters, officials, other event personnel, and athlete agents in these sports.
- A five-member board governs the Commission. Day-to-day operations are managed by an executive director, an administrative assistant, and a part-time account clerk.
- The Commission is fully supported by fees and receives no GRF funding.
- The budget provides approximately \$331,000 in FY 2020 and \$332,000 in FY 2021 for Commission operations.
  - Most of the funding will be used for payroll. These costs amounted to approximately \$207,300 in FY 2019, or about 83.8% of the Commission’s spending in that fiscal year.

FY 2016 Actual	FY 2017 Actual	FY 2018 Actual	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Appropriation	FY 2021 Appropriation
<b>Fund 4K90 ALI 175609, Operating Expenses</b>					
\$288,344	\$272,887	\$297,222	\$275,469	\$331,169	\$331,822
% change	-5.4%	8.9%	-7.3%	20.2%	0.2%

### Agency overview

The Ohio Athletic Commission (ATH) regulates boxing, mixed martial arts, professional wrestling, kickboxing, karate, and tough person contests in an effort to protect the safety of the participants and the interests of the public. ATH carries out its mission by setting standards for licensing individuals, granting permits, and conducting sanctioned events. The Commission has been particularly active in regulating amateur mixed martial arts (MMA) events. Overall, ATH issued about 1,800 licenses, permits, and related credentials to competitors, promoters, officials, other event personnel, and athlete agents in FY 2019.

ATH’s governing authority consists of five voting members appointed by the Governor. One member must be a doctor of medicine or osteopathy and two members must be knowledgeable in boxing and mixed martial arts. Members receive a per diem in an amount fixed pursuant to state law as well as reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred as part of their duties. Day-to-day operations are managed by a full-time executive director, an administrative assistant, and a part-time account clerk. The Commission receives no GRF funding; instead, its operations are entirely supported by fee revenue.

## Analysis of FY 2020-FY 2021 budget

The budget provides funding of \$331,169 in FY 2020 and \$331,822 in FY 2021 for Commission operations under Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Fund (Fund 4K90) line item 175609, Operating Expenses. Fees collected from athletes, sporting officials, promoters, agents, and others in the field of boxing, wrestling, and mixed martial arts, as well as receipts from a 5% event tax applied to gross ticket sales from major competitions, supports all of the Commission's operating expenses. As with many regulatory boards and commissions, most of the funding provided will go toward payroll covering the Executive Director, administrative assistant, and account clerk. These expenses totaled approximately \$207,300 in FY 2019, or nearly 85.0% of overall spending in that fiscal year.

### Fee structure

The Commission issues several different types of licenses, permits, and identification cards related to the athletic activities it regulates. The table below shows the current fee amounts charged for these credentials. Please note that the Competitor (Tough Person) Application fee was increased from \$20 to \$30 in FY 2019. All of the Commission's licenses renew annually, except for the athlete agent license, which renews biennially. The Commission collects two national registrations – the Federal Boxing ID Card and the National Mixed Martial Arts ID Card. The former is valid for four years and the latter is valid for five years. These fees, as well as the proceeds from a 5% event tax and penalties, are deposited in Fund 4K90. Overall, receipts from the over 1,800 credentials issued by the Commission in FY 2019 totaled approximately \$117,000. Receipts from the 5% event tax amounted to approximately \$39,500, and penalty income was just under \$1,500.

License, Permit, and Identification Card Fees	
Name of License or Permit	Fee Amount
Athlete Agent Registration (Two Years)	\$500
Professional Wrestling Promoter License	\$200
Professional Wrestling Permit	\$100
Boxing, Mixed Martial Arts, Tough Person Promoter License	\$150
Boxing, Mixed Martial Arts, Tough Person Event Permit	\$100
Competitor (Boxer, Mixed Martial Arts) License	\$40
Competitor (Tough Person) Application	\$30
Nonofficials (Manager, Matchmaker, Second, Trainer) License	\$40
Officials (Judge, Referee, Timekeeper) License	\$40
Federal Identification Card for Boxers (Four Years)	\$20
National Identification Card for Mixed Martial Arts Fighters (Five Years)	\$20
Replacement Card	\$10