

State Board of Examiners of Architects and State Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects

- Two boards share professional staff
- Increase of nearly 5% in licensed individuals from FY 2003 to FY 2004
- Enacted budget of \$489,197 per year for FY 2006 and FY 2007

Jason Phillips, Budget Analyst

OVERVIEW

Duties and Responsibilities

The State Board of Examiners of Architects and the State Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects are two separate boards that operate under a combined budget and share staff and facilities. Each board meets independently. Both boards protect the public by licensing and regulating the professions of architecture and landscape architecture.

Agency in Brief

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Number of Employees*	Total Appropriations-All Funds		GRF Appropriations		Appropriation Bill(s)
	2006	2007	2006	2007	
4	\$489,197	\$489,197	\$0	\$0	Am. Sub. H.B. 66

*Employee count obtained from the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) payroll reports as of June 2005.

4K9 Fund

The Architects boards are funded by Fund 4K9, which is a fund in the General Services Fund group that serves as a repository for license fees and other assessments collected by the state's occupational licensing and regulatory boards. The 4K9 Fund allows the agencies that it funds the ability to maintain operations during years where licenses are not renewed and revenue is much lower. However, the philosophy of the 4K9 Fund is that each board must generate enough revenue to cover their expenses. Yet, it is also quite common for the boards to develop a surplus in the fund to cover unforeseen economic hardships.

Licensure

The Architects boards handle the administrative work for roughly 8,000 architect and landscape architect licenses. The boards renew its licenses on a biennial basis with \$1,131,935 in revenue versus \$929,911 in expenditures over the two-year period from FY 2004 to FY 2005. This has resulted in a net gain of \$202,024 to the 4K9 Fund in that span. The Architects boards' enacted budget appropriates a total of \$489,197 in FY 2006 and \$489,197 in FY 2007, representing flat funding for the biennium.

Board Consolidation

The executive budget recommended that 27 occupational licensing and regulatory boards be consolidated into the departments of Health, Commerce, and Public Safety. The enacted budget excludes the Architects boards (and six other boards) from the recommendation and thus exempts the boards from the consolidation's provisions. It is uncertain what the impact of the board consolidation will be on costs for the boards that were exempted. However, it is likely that the architects boards will be able to absorb any potential increase within existing resources.

Fining Authority

A provision in the enacted budget permits the Architects boards, in addition to disciplinary actions the boards may take against holders of a certificate of qualification that violate the boards' rules, to also impose a fine against a certificate holder, which may not be more than \$1,000 for each offense. The total fine cannot exceed \$5,000, regardless of the number of offenses the certificate holder has committed between the time the fine is imposed and the time any previous fine was imposed. Previously, the Architects boards did not have fining authority. While the number of violations varies from year to year, the Architects boards could receive as much as \$30,000 per calendar year in fine revenue. This figure is derived from violations occurring from CY 2000 to CY 2005.

Vetoed Provisions

The Governor did not veto any provisions affecting the Architects boards.

ANALYSIS OF THE ENACTED BUDGET

For budget purposes, as detailed below, the State Board of Examiners of Architects and State Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects is considered a single program series agency and its activities are not subdivided into separate programs.

Program Series 1

Operating Expenses

Purpose: To license and regulate the professions of architecture and landscape architecture.

The following table shows the line items that are used to fund the State Boards of Examiners of Architects and Landscape Architects as well as the enacted budget's funding levels.

Fund	ALI	Title	FY 2006	FY 2007
General Services Fund				
4K9	891-609	Operating Expenses	\$489,197	\$489,197
Total Funding: State Board of Examiners of Architects and State Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects			\$489,197	\$489,197

Program Description: In accordance with Chapter 4703. of the Revised Code, the Board of Examiners of Architects and the Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects protect the public health, safety, and welfare through the regulation of the practice of architecture and landscape architecture, respectively.

Funding Source: GSF Fund 4K9

Implication of the Enacted Budget: The enacted budget allows the State Board of Examiners of Architects and State Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects to maintain FY 2005 service levels for FY 2006 and FY 2007.

Permanent Law: Fining Authority (R.C. 4703.15). The enacted budget permits the Architects Boards to impose a fine against a certificate holder of not more than \$1,000 for each offense. The total fine cannot exceed \$5,000, regardless of the number of offenses the certificate holder has committed between the time the fine is imposed and the time any previous fine was imposed. Previously, the Architects boards did not have fining authority.