

Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board

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- Contract with Dept. of Agriculture for investigators has resulted in significant savings to the Board
- Licensed 5,237 professional veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and veterinary specialists in FY 2004
- Planned consolidation within Department of Health in FY 2007

OVERVIEW

Duties and Responsibilities

The Veterinary Medical Licensing Board's mission is to ensure that professional, trustworthy, and competent veterinarians and veterinary technicians serve Ohio's citizens. The Board serves a number of functions, including issuing licenses, providing examinations for licenses, approving continuing education courses, and investigating complaints. Chapter 4741. of the Revised Code grants these powers.

Agency in Brief

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Number of Employees*	Total Appropriations-All Funds		GRF Appropriations		Appropriation Bill(s)
	2006	2007	2006	2007	
2	\$353,691	\$0	\$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 Veterinary Medical Licensing Board is funded by fees that it deposits in the Occupational and Professional Licensing Fund (Fund 4K9), which serves as a repository for license fees and other assessments collected by the state's occupational licensing and regulatory boards. This 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 Veterinary Medical Licensing Board handles the administrative work for roughly 5,200 veterinarians, registered veterinary technicians, and veterinary specialists. The Board renews its licenses biennially with estimated revenue of \$817, 565 versus \$536,326 in expenditures over the two-year period from FY 2004 to FY 2005. This has resulted in a net gain of \$281,239 to the 4K9 Fund in that span. The Veterinary Medical Board's enacted budget appropriates a total of \$353,691 for FY 2006, but does not make an appropriation for FY 2007, as the board is slated for consolidation within the Department of Health.

Board Consolidation

The enacted budget recommended that 20 independent occupational licensing boards be absorbed into the departments of Health, Commerce, and Public Safety. As such, the enacted budget does not appropriate funding in FY 2007 for the boards and commissions included in the consolidation proposal. The specifics of the consolidation plan will be addressed during FY 2006 by a task force consisting of the agencies acquiring the boards, the Department of Administrative Services, the Office of Budget and Management (OBM), and three individuals selected by the boards included in the consolidation proposal. According to the plan, current staff will be retained through FY 2006 and a hiring freeze and early retirement incentives will be offered to regulatory board staff. These incentives should result in staff reductions. Effective July 1, 2006, all remaining regulatory board staff will be transferred to the relevant agency. Board and commission members for each agency will be retained and continue to serve in the manner in which they were appointed.

Veterinary Student Loan Program

A provision in the enacted budget requires the Veterinary Medical Licensing Board to implement a student loan repayment program for veterinary students focusing on large animal populations, public health, or regulatory veterinary medicine. The program is funded by a transfer of \$60,000 in FY 2006 from the Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Fund (Fund 4K9) to the newly created Veterinary Student Loan Program Fund (Fund 5BU). No funds have been appropriated for this program for FY 2007 as the Board is slated for consolidation within the Department of Health. The Board is looking at modeling the veterinary student loan program off of similar loan repayment programs for physicians and dental students. The Board also needs to determine if a continuous funding stream will be created, as none was included in the enacted budget.

Sharing of Inspectors with the Department of Agriculture

The Veterinary Medical Licensing Board, in order to cut costs, began a contract with the Ohio Department of Agriculture in 2000 to share investigators. Through this arrangement, the Board only pays for the hours spent investigating its cases and mileage. In FY 2004, the Board expanded the contract to include compliance inspectors. The Board estimates that the contract results in savings of approximately \$2,000 per year in salary, not including fringe benefits and expenses. The Board is also saving all of the salary of the compliance inspector (approximately \$60,000) plus benefits and expenses. The Board expects the contract with the Department of Agriculture to continue at least for the next two years. In addition, the Board reports that the agreement has resulted in significant improvements in the time required to investigate a case.

Vetoed Provisions

The Governor did not veto any provisions affecting the Veterinary Medical Licensing Board.

ANALYSIS OF THE ENACTED BUDGET

For budget purposes, as detailed below, the Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board is considered a single program series agency and its activities are not subdivided into separate programs.

Program Series 1

Operating Expenses

Purpose: To license, enforce, and regulate the practice of veterinary medicine.

The following table shows the line items that are used to fund the Veterinary Medical Licensing Board, as well as the Governor's recommended funding levels.

Fund	ALI	Title	FY 2006	FY 2007
General Services Fund				
4K9	888-609	Operating Expenses	\$ 293,691	\$0
5BU	888-602	Veterinary Student Loan Program	\$60,000	\$0
Total Funding: Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board			\$353,691	\$0

Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board

Program Description: In accordance with Chapter 4741. of the Revised Code, the Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board issues, licenses, provides examinations for licensure, approves continuing education courses, investigates complaints, performs compliance inspections of veterinary facilities, and networks with other state, federal, and local agencies that relate to veterinary medicine.

Funding Source: GSF Fund 4K9

Implication of the Enacted Budget: The Veterinary Medical Licensing Board received funding of \$353,691 in FY 2006 and \$0 in FY 2007, as the Board is slated for consolidation within the Department of Health. The enacted funding for the biennium should allow the Board to maintain FY 2005 service levels.

Temporary Law Provisions: Veterinary Student Loan Program (Section 212.30). A provision in the enacted budget requires the Veterinary Medical Licensing Board to implement a student loan repayment program for veterinary students focusing on large animal populations, public health, or regulatory veterinary medicine. The program is funded by a transfer of \$60,000 in FY 2006 from the Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Fund (Fund 4K9) to the newly created Veterinary Student Loan Program Fund (Fund 5BU). No funds have been appropriated for this program for FY 2007 as the Board is slated for consolidation within the Department of Health.