

# State Board of Optometry

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- Licensed 2,061 optometrists in FY 2004
- The Board received no funding for FY 2007 and will be consolidated into the Department of Health that year

## OVERVIEW

### Duties and Responsibilities

The State Board of Optometry was established to regulate the practice of optometry in the state of Ohio. The Board issues licenses to optometrists and conducts investigations for compliance with rules or regarding complaints received from the public. The Board is also responsible for the revision of policies and guidelines for license renewal and the issuance of new licenses.

### Fund 4K9

The State Board of Optometry is part of the 4K9 Fund group. The 4K9 Fund (Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Fund) is a General Services Fund that is a repository for license fees and other assessments collected by the state's professional and occupational licensing boards. The 4K9 Fund was established by Am. Sub. H.B. 152 of the 120th General Assembly. Prior to the creation of the fund, appropriations for each licensing board were made from the GRF. This created some problems as some boards contributed more revenues than they expended and others had to be subsidized by the GRF since the revenues generated did not meet their expenditures. The 4K9 Fund eliminated these problems. The philosophy of the fund is that each board must generate enough revenues to cover their expenses. It is also quite common for the boards to develop a surplus in the fund to cover unforeseen economic hardships.

### Licensure

The Board administers three types of licenses: optometric, therapeutic, and diagnostic. In FY 2004, there were 2,061 optometrist licenses issued. Revenue is generated from new and renewal license fees, which are collected annually. Expenditures are for operating expenses associated with the licensure, regulation, and enforcement processes. Expenditures and revenues for FY 2004 totaled \$296,554 and \$289,231, respectively. The Board contributed \$7,323 less to Fund 4K9 than it expended in FY 2004. However, in FY 2003, the Board had a net of \$4,873 to Fund 4K9 with revenues of \$284,995 and expenditures of \$280,122. According to the Board, this loss of \$2,450 over the past two fiscal years is primarily due to fluctuations in licensing revenues.

**Agency in Brief**

<b>Agency In Brief</b>					
<b>Number of Employees*</b>	<b>Total Appropriations-All Funds</b>		<b>GRF Appropriations</b>		<b>Appropriation Bill(s)</b>
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	
3	\$336,771	\$0	\$0	\$0	Am. Sub. H.B. 66

\*Employee count obtained from the Board of Optometry.

**Summary of FY 2006-2007 Budget Issues****Board Consolidation**

In the enacted version of Am. Sub. H.B. 66 of the 126th General Assembly, 20 of the independent occupational licensing boards are to be consolidated into the departments of Health, Commerce, and Public Safety in FY 2007. As a result, the affected Boards received no funding in FY 2007. In the case of the State Board of Optometry, the Board and its duties will be consolidated into the Department of Health. The specifics of this transfer will be addressed during FY 2006 by a task force consisting of the departments of Commerce, Health, Public Safety, and Administrative Services, and the Office of Budget and Management (OBM), as well as three members selected from the affected boards. According to OBM, current staff will be retained through FY 2006 and a hiring freeze and early retirement incentive will be offered to regulatory board staff. Effective July 1, 2006, all remaining regulatory board staff will be transferred to the relevant agency. Board members will be retained.

**Vetoed Provisions**

There were no vetoed provisions for the State Board of Optometry.

## ANALYSIS OF THE ENACTED BUDGET

For budget purposes, as detailed below, the State Board of Optometry 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 Ohio's optometrists.

The following table shows the line items that are used to fund the Optometry Board, as well as the enacted funding levels.

Fund	ALI	Title	FY 2006	FY 2007
<b>General Services Fund</b>				
4K9	885-609	Operating Expenses	\$336,771	\$0
<b>General Services Fund Subtotal</b>			<b>\$336,771</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total Funding: Ohio State Board of Optometry</b>			<b>\$336,771</b>	<b>\$0</b>

### Ohio State Board of Optometry

**Program Description:** The Ohio State Board of Optometry assures that the optometrists operating in the state are professionally competent by regulating examinations, enforcing continuing education compliance, monitoring continuing education quality, issuance and renewal of licensure, and enforcement of Chapter 4725. of the Revised Code.

**Funding Source:** Licensing fees and other assessments deposited into GSF Fund 4K9

**Implication of the Enacted Budget:** The Board received funding of \$336,771 in FY 2006 and \$0 in FY 2007. The enacted funding for FY 2006 will allow the Board to carry out its mission and allow for the 4% increase in payroll. In FY 2007, the Board will be consolidated into the Department of Health. The specifics of this transfer will be addressed during FY 2006 by a task force consisting of the departments of Commerce, Health, Public Safety, and Administrative Services, and the Office of Budget and Management, as well as three members selected from the affected boards.