

Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board

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- The Board received no funding in FY 2007 and will be absorbed into the Department of Health that year
- The Board licensed 17,803 in FY 2004, a 2.36% increase over FY 2003; based on past trends, the Board anticipates licensing up to 20,000 per year by FY 2007

OVERVIEW

Duties and Responsibilities

The Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board (OTPTAT) oversees the licensing and regulation of over 17,000 professionals. In 1976, the 111th General Assembly established the Occupational Therapists Board. Chapter 4755. of the Revised Code was amended in 1977 to include the regulation of physical therapists, which until then had been regulated by the State Medical Board. Athletic trainers were added to the Board's scope with the enactment of S.B. 80 in 1990. Today, the Board operates as a consolidated board with sections of the Board regulating each profession and a consolidated administrative staff. The Board is empowered to license each discipline through examination, hold hearings, subpoena witnesses, and take other actions to address complaints about licensees' performance of professional duties. The Board also inspects the practices of licensees and certifies continuing education requirements.

Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Athletic Trainers Board - Licenses Granted						
License	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Occupational Therapist	3,381	3,205	3,186	3,702	3,710	3,831
Occupational Therapist Asst.	1,798	1,813	1,831	2,161	2,149	2,170
Physical Therapist	5,210	5,337	5,599	5,871	5,997	6,127
Physical Therapist Asst.	3,230	3,516	3,762	3,923	4,019	4,083
Athletic Trainer	1,241	1,309	1,385	1,456	1,517	1,592
TOTAL	14,860	15,180	15,763	17,113	17,392	17,803
% Increase	N/A	2.15%	3.84%	8.56%	1.63%	2.36%

Fund 4K9

The Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board 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.

Revenues and expenditures for the Board for the FY 2003-2004 renewal cycle totaled \$1,903,010 and \$1,492,242, respectively. The Board contributed \$410,768 more to Fund 4K9 than it expended in the FY 2003-2004 renewal cycle.

Agency in Brief

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Number of Employees*	Total Appropriations-All Funds		GRF Appropriations		Appropriation Bill(s)
	2006	2007	2006	2007	
9*	\$824,057	\$0	\$0	\$0	Am. Sub. H.B. 66

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

The Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board consists of three separate boards that meet jointly three times per year. The OTPTAT Board budget funds 20 Board members whose salaries and reimbursement expenses are included in the agency's appropriation. Board members are budgeted for 96 hours per fiscal year.

Vetoed Provisions

There were no vetoed provisions for the Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board.

ANALYSIS OF THE ENACTED BUDGET

For budget purposes, as detailed below, the Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board is considered a single program series agency and its activities are not subdivided into separate programs.

Program Series 1

Operating Expenses

Purpose: To regulate the professions of occupational therapy, physical therapy, and athletic training to promote and protect the health of Ohio's citizens.

The following table shows the line item that is used to fund the Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board program series, as well as the enacted funding level.

Fund	ALI	Title	FY 2006	FY 2007
General Services Fund				
4K9	890-609	Operating Expenses	\$824,057	\$0
General Services Fund Subtotal			\$824,057	\$0
Total Funding: Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board			\$824,057	\$0

This analysis focuses on the Licensing/Registration/Certification program within the Board's single program series.

Program Description: In accordance with Chapter 4775. of the Revised Code, the Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board regulates the professions of occupational therapy, physical therapy, and athletic training by properly qualified applicants, acts on complaints filed with the Board, and monitors continuing education compliance.

Funding Source: General Services Fund Group (Fund 4K9). Currently, revenue from many of the occupational licensing boards is placed in Fund 4K9 and reallocated to each board. Each board must raise enough revenue through its license fees to cover its expenses.

Implication of the Enacted Budget: The enacted budget includes an appropriation of \$824,057 in FY 2006 and \$0 in FY 2007. Funding for FY 2006 will allow the Board to carry out its mission and allow for an increase in payroll expenses anticipated by the Board. Am. Sub. H.B. 66, as enacted, includes a provision that 20 of the independent occupational licensing boards be absorbed into the departments of Health, Commerce, and Public Safety in FY 2007. In the case of the Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board, the Board and its duties will be absorbed into the Department of Health. The provision also includes the creation of a transition team consisting of the departments of Commerce, Health, Public Safety, and Administrative Services, the Office of Budget and Management, and the Governor's Office to ensure that the consolidation occurs smoothly and on schedule. The temporary language states that the necessary statutory changes and appropriations needed for the consolidation will be introduced in FY 2006.