

# House of Representatives

*Sara D. Anderson, Budget Analyst*

- Primarily GRF-driven budget
- Member and staff compensation by far largest expense

## OVERVIEW

### **Duties and Responsibilities**

The legislative branch of the state of Ohio includes the General Assembly, which is composed of two chambers: the House of Representatives and the Senate. Based on Article II of the Ohio Constitution, the General Assembly can be viewed as having three fundamental legislative powers: (1) the power to enact laws providing for the establishment, organization, and operation of government in Ohio, (2) the power to enact all manner of laws that promote the public peace, health, safety, and welfare, and (3) the power to levy and collect taxes for certain purposes. In terms of more specific legislative duties and responsibilities, the House of Representatives:

- Enacts, in conjunction with the Senate, new laws or amends or repeals existing laws;
- Adopts, in conjunction with the Senate, joint, concurrent, and simple resolutions that generally are formal expressions of the opinions and wishes of the General Assembly and do not require approval of the Governor;
- Judges the election, returns, and qualifications of its members; and
- Initiates impeachment proceedings against the Governor, other executive officers, and state judges.

The House of Representatives is divided into 99 legislative districts, each serving a population of approximately 115,000 persons. The elections to the House of Representatives occur every two years. All members are subject to term limits prescribing no more than four consecutive two-year terms.

### **Agency in Brief**

The following table selectively summarizes House appropriations and staffing information. The House's annual operating expenses are financed almost entirely by moneys appropriated from the GRF. By far, its major cost component is personal service-related payroll expenses, in particular payments of salaries and wages, supplements, and fringe benefits.

House In Brief					
Number of Employees*	Total Appropriations-All Funds		GRF Appropriations		Appropriation Bill(s)
	2006	2007	2006	2007	
316	\$21.63 million	\$21.83 million	\$20.17 million	\$20.37 million	Am. Sub. H.B. 66

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

### Vetoed Provisions

The House of Representatives is not directly affected by any of the items contained in Am. Sub. H.B. 66 that were vetoed by the Governor.

## ANALYSIS OF THE ENACTED BUDGET

For budget purposes, as detailed below, the House of Representatives is considered a single program series agency and its activities are not subdivided into separate programs.

### Program Series 1

### Operating Expenses

**Purpose:** To support the efforts of state representatives and related staff in representing their respective districts, developing legislation, and overseeing the administration of state activities and the state budget.

The following table shows the line items that are used to fund the House of Representatives, as well as the enacted appropriation levels.

Fund	ALI	Title	FY 2006	FY 2007
<b>General Revenue Fund</b>				
GRF	025-321	Operating Expenses	\$20,169,168	\$20,370,859
<b>General Revenue Fund Subtotal</b>			<b>\$20,169,168</b>	<b>\$20,370,859</b>
<b>General Services Fund</b>				
103	025-601	House Reimbursement	\$1,419,469	\$1,419,469
4A4	025-602	Miscellaneous Sales	\$37,474	\$37,474
<b>General Services Fund Subtotal</b>			<b>\$1,456,943</b>	<b>\$1,456,943</b>
<b>Total Funding: House of Representatives</b>			<b>\$21,626,111</b>	<b>\$21,827,802</b>

**Program Description:** This program serves to promote the role and responsibilities of the House of Representatives. Each member of the House of Representatives is elected to a two-year term from one of the state's 99 House districts. Each member is assigned to serve on at least one standing committee or subcommittee.

**Funding Sources:** (1) GRF, (2) sale of flags and other items to the general public, (3) moneys from salvage and recycling of equipment, materials, and supplies, and (4) miscellaneous reimbursements, such as those received for overpayment of medical insurance.

**Implication of the Enacted Budget:** The enacted appropriation levels appear to be sufficient for the House of Representatives to maintain its FY 2005 level of operating expenses, including covering the payroll costs associated with 99 House of Representative members, 189 full-time staff, and around 45 part-time pages.

**Temporary Law: Operating Expenses (Section 206.54).** The enacted budget contains a temporary law provision requiring the Director of Budget and Management, at the direction of the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives, to transfer: (1) any unencumbered appropriations from FY 2005 to FY 2006 for use within GRF line item 025-321, Operating Expenses, and (2) any unencumbered appropriations from FY 2006 to FY 2007 for use within GRF line item 025-321, Operating Expenses.