

House Bill 49
State Government and Agency Review – Finance
Subcommittee
Larry Wolpert - Executive Director
Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) Budget
February 28th 2017

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the House Finance Subcommittee on State Government and Agency Review and thank you for permitting me to give testimony on House Bill 49.

I am Larry Wolpert the Director of the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review or more commonly known as JCARR. JCARR was created in 1977 and consists of five House members and five Senate members.

The committee has the same powers as other standing or select committees and continues to meet even when the General Assembly has adjourned. The role of JCARR is to review all proposed, amended and rescinded administrative rules from over 110 agencies to ensure agencies do not exceed their rule writing authority granted to them by you - the General Assembly.

In the last five years JCARR has had a lot of change. We successfully added the requirements of Senate Bill 2 and 3 into JCARR procedure. We completed a series of instructional videos, redesigned our website, created the RuleWatch Ohio website, use iPads for committee meetings instead of paper, spearheaded adding Ohio's public universities' rules to the Administrative Code, rewrote the JCARR procedure manual into a "plain language" format, created a JCARR personnel manual, conducted agency focus groups, eliminating 37 years of stored paper files by scanning them into an electronic format, conducted staff educational field trips, created a JCARR organizational chart and job descriptions, designed JCARR purchasing procedures, and added JCARR Twitter and Facebook accounts.

In 2017 we hope to have our final long term office objectives completed. By this summer our goal is to have a completely rewritten Electronic Rule Filing (ERF) system implemented along with a new "easy read" Rule Summary and Fascial Analysis (RSFA). We are also working with LIS to upgrade the JCARR and RuleWatch websites.

These enhancements will make it easier for agencies to submit rules to JCARR and therefore reduce time and costs.

Approximately 93% of JCARR's appropriation is used for staff and the remaining 7% is for supplies, maintenance and equipment.

For the upcoming biennium, the requested JCARR budget is \$512,253 for FY2018 and FY 2019. This represents no increase from the FY 2017 budget. I believe this budget will allow JCARR to meet its current statutory responsibilities, goal and objectives.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee and I would be willing to answer any questions you may have.