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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Wendy Zhan, Director

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

To: Chair Schaffer and Members of the Senate General Government Budget Committee

From: Wendy Zhan, Director

Date: April 28, 2021

Subject: LSC FY 2022-FY 2023 budget proposal

Chair Schaffer, Vice-Chair Wilson, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Senate General Government Budget Committee, I am Wendy Zhan, Director of the Legislative Service Commission (LSC). I appreciate the opportunity to come before you today to present LSC's budget proposal for the next biennium.

I will start by briefly explaining our structure. Our governing body, the Legislative Service Commission, is made up of 14 legislators, seven from the House and seven from the Senate. Traditionally, the chair rotates between the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate. Our budget group includes funding for three different legislative agencies – LSC, the Legislative Information Systems (LIS), and the Correctional Institution Inspection Committee (CIIC) – as well as several other legislative functions. The proposed funding levels for the upcoming biennium for LSC, LIS, and CIIC are held at their respective current fiscal year's appropriation level.

Now, I will briefly go over the LSC line item and then the six other GRF appropriation line items in our budget group. Line item 035321 covers the operating expenses of my agency, LSC. As a nonpartisan, central service agency for the General Assembly, LSC provides a comprehensive array of products and services. I am sure you are already familiar with many of our products and services. The Redbook for the LSC budget proposal, which is one of the many budget supporting documents we produce, has more details on LSC functions.

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some key LSC staff workload statistics. I will start with budget amendments since this is the budget season. During the 133rd General Assembly, we drafted about 7,600 amendments for Governor DeWine's first budget, which was a 24% increase over the approximately 6,110 amendments we drafted for Governor Kasich's first budget during the 129th General Assembly. In addition, during the last General Assembly, we completed a total of 21,900¹ legislative bill drafting, analysis, and research assignments, which was a 4% increase over the number completed in the 132nd General Assembly.

¹ This figure excludes honorary resolutions and letters of commendation.

The LSC staff strives to provide quality services in a timely manner to meet the demands of General Assembly members and staff. The table below summarizes our response timelines for the 21,900 legislative assignments we completed in the last General Assembly. As seen from the table, on average, 26% or 5,694 of all requests were answered on the same day as received and cumulatively, 42.5% or 9,315 were answered within two days.

Assignment Completion Statistics by Type, 133rd General Assembly				
Type	Same Day	0-1 Day	0-7 Days	0-14 Days
Bill Drafts	17.2%	32.0%	61.9%	75.0%
Non-Budget Amendments	45.1%	65.4%	91.3%	96.3%
Bill Analyses	16.9%	37.5%	70.4%	79.4%
Fiscal Analyses	15.0%	29.9%	60.5%	77.0%
Research	24.3%	36.8%	65.2%	79.2%
Overall	26.0%	42.5%	71.9%	83.3%

We are proud of what we have accomplished. It takes people to develop and deliver all of the LSC's services and products, and in fact about 96% of the LSC budget went to employee personnel costs last fiscal year. For the money, the legislature gets a staff of dedicated, experienced, highly trained, and educated employees. We currently have about 150 staff. During the last two years, we had eight retirements; together these eight people devoted a total of 260 years serving the General Assembly. We will need to fill a few vacancies once the busy budget season is over. As the director, it is my top priority to search for, develop, and retain people with the talent and experience needed to serve the General Assembly. All of us at LSC appreciate the support of the legislature and look forward to continuing to earn that support.

The Legislative Information Systems line item (035410) pays for the operating expenses of LIS. LIS provides computer networking, application development, telephone, and a variety of other information technology services to the House, the Senate, LSC, and several other legislative agencies. Kurt McDowell is the Director of LIS, and is here with me today. Director McDowell's written testimony is part of our packet, and he is available to answer any questions you may have about his agency.

The Correctional Institution Inspection Committee line item (035405) covers the operating expenses of CIIC. Chris Albanese, the Executive Director of CIIC, is also here today. Director Albanese's written testimony is also part of our packet and he is also available to answer any questions you may have about his agency.

The Legislative Fellows line item (035402) pays the salaries and expenses for 24 participants in the Legislative Fellowship Program. Ten fellows are placed with the House, ten with the Senate, two with Ohio Government Telecommunications, and two with LSC.

Finally, LSC is the fiscal agent and processes the payments for the remaining three line items. The Legislative Task Force on Redistricting line item (035407) will be used to support the next round of drawing legislative and Congressional district boundaries. The Legislative Task Force on Redistricting, Reapportionment, and Demographic Research is made up of six members appointed by House and Senate leadership. The Litigation line item (035501) is under the control of the Speaker and President. It can be used for the expenses of any lawsuit that might arise challenging state law and to which the General Assembly is a party. The National Associations line item (035409) pays the General Assembly's annual membership dues to belong to the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), the Council of State Governments (CSG), the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), and three smaller organizations.

Chair Schaffer and members of the committee, thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Attachments: LIS Director McDowell's written testimony
CIIC Director Albanese's written testimony
NCSL chart on legislative branch expenditures for FY 2019



OHIO LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Date: April 28, 2021
To: Chairman Shaffer and Members of the General
Government Budget Committee
From: Kurt McDowell, Director
Subject: LIS FY2022-2023 Budget Testimony

Chairman Shaffer and members of the General Government Budget Committee, my name is Kurt McDowell, and I am the Director of Legislative Information Systems (LIS).

Legislative Information Systems (LIS) was formed in 1995, and serves the Ohio General Assembly and the legislative agencies. Like our parent agency, the Legislative Service Commission (LSC), LIS is a non-partisan agency established to facilitate the legislative process. We strive to provide the highest quality and professional information technology (IT) services through robust, reliable, and cost-effective systems that meet the needs of the legislative agencies we support.

The LIS director functions as the General Assembly Chief Technical Officer (CTO). The CTO acts to improve cooperation, standards conformity, and security in all General Assembly IT organizations. Oversight of LIS is provided by the Senate Clerk, the House Clerk and the LSC Director.

While the House, Senate, and LSC each have their own information technology organizations, we work closely and cooperatively with them. LIS also provides direct services that generally begin when requirements affect the entire General Assembly or an even larger community.

LIS operates the General Assembly, Senate, and House websites and is responsible for the design and support of key applications like the bill drafting and chamber systems. The SOLAR (State of Ohio Legislative Application Repository) project transforms the legislative process by making it more efficient and modern. This project entails everything from the initial request that LSC draft a bill, through consideration and approval by both the House and Senate, to the preparation of an act for the presentation to the Governor. You are using a portion of the SOLAR system today if you are following the testimony on your iPad.

LIS is responsible for the Electronic Rule Filing (ERF) system, the Register of Ohio (ROO) website and applications, Rule Authoring Software (RAS), and Rule Watch Ohio - a website that allows the public to track administrative rules of interest. LIS recently worked with LSC to publish the ORC and OAC which eliminated a contract with a vendor.

LIS is responsible for the design and daily maintenance of the legislative telephone system.

OHIO LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION SYSTEMS

LIS also maintains computer desktop, server, network, telephone, and website support for other legislative agencies. These include Correctional Institution Inspection Committee (CIIC), Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board (CSRAB), Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR), Joint Legislative Ethics Committee (JLEC), Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee (JMOC), and Ohio Retirement Study Council (ORSC).

Thank you for your time today. I am happy to answer any questions that you might have.

CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION INSPECTION COMMITTEE

A Joint Committee of the 134th Ohio General Assembly

HOUSE MEMBERS

Adam C. Miller, *Vice Chair*
Sedrick Denson
Gayle Manning
Jean Schmidt



SENATE MEMBERS

Nathan Manning, *Chair*
Hearcel Craig, *Secretary*
Niraj Antani
Sandra R. Williams

Senate General Government Budget Committee

House Bill 110 Testimony

April 28, 2021

Chairman Schaffer; thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 110.

Established in 1977, the Correctional Institution Inspection Committee (CIIC) is a bipartisan joint committee of the General Assembly that is required by code to inspect, evaluate, and report on Ohio's adult correctional facilities every biennium. The line item reflected in this budget allows the committee to maintain a staff of five so that CIIC members may be effectively assisted in fulfilling these statutory obligations.

During the 133rd biennium, staff were able to complete inspections at 31 facilities, including 28 adult prisons operated by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, and 3 juvenile correctional facilities operated by the Ohio Department of Youth Services.

Staff remained dedicated to their responsibilities despite the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, which were especially felt by the correctional system. After close collaboration with DRC to establish new inspection protocols to maintain the safety of offenders, staff, and the public, CIIC became the first external inspecting body to return inside facilities since their closure to the public. This allowed staff to conduct the final 19 facility inspections in the last 18 weeks of the biennium.

Finally, another large part of committee staff work is to answer constituent concerns on behalf of members. In the 133rd biennium, 8,426 concerns were received, a rate of 16 per day, from or regarding 1,847 incarcerated offenders.

The continued flat funding of the Correctional Institution Inspection Committee will allow for its staff to not only fulfill, but exceed statutory duties in the coming biennium.

Thank you for your time,

Chris Albanese,
Executive Director

Legislative Branch Expenditures for FY 2019
with Rankings by Legislative Branch Expenditure, Per Capita,
and Percentage of General Government Expenditures

State	Popul*	Rank	Gen'l Gov't Expend*	Rank	Legis Branch Expend*	Rank	Per Cap	Rank	% Gen'l Gov't	Rank
Alabama	4,903	24	\$30,621,284	24	\$51,811	23	\$10.57	27	0.17%	20
Alaska	732	48	\$9,977,079	40	\$61,253	14	\$83.68	1	0.61%	1
Arizona	7,279	14	\$37,843,032	18	\$30,079	36	\$4.13	49	0.08%	49
Arkansas	3,018	33	\$21,189,506	31	\$55,772	22	\$18.48	10	0.26%	9
California	39,512	1	\$337,836,399	1	\$401,248	1	\$10.16	28	0.12%	40
Colorado	5,759	21	\$32,011,489	22	\$40,985	26	\$7.12	40	0.13%	35
Connecticut	3,565	29	\$23,222,593	28	\$57,672	20	\$16.18	14	0.25%	10
Delaware	974	45	\$9,638,718	42	\$15,169	46	\$15.57	15	0.16%	26
Florida	21,478	3	\$92,058,323	5	\$144,300	6	\$6.72	42	0.16%	27
Georgia	10,617	8	\$46,185,762	14	\$34,909	32	\$3.29	50	0.08%	50
Hawaii	1,416	40	\$12,617,105	38	\$34,635	33	\$24.46	4	0.27%	8
Idaho	1,787	39	\$9,769,539	41	\$15,688	45	\$8.78	31	0.16%	23
Illinois	12,672	6	\$74,752,311	6	\$61,508	13	\$4.85	48	0.08%	47
Indiana	6,732	17	\$40,597,226	17	\$56,469	21	\$8.39	34	0.14%	29
Iowa	3,155	31	\$21,468,598	30	\$35,965	30	\$11.40	25	0.17%	21
Kansas	2,913	35	\$18,716,162	35	\$21,647	42	\$7.43	37	0.12%	41
Kentucky	4,468	26	\$30,515,806	25	\$41,799	25	\$9.36	30	0.14%	30
Louisiana	4,649	25	\$31,365,020	23	\$58,904	18	\$12.67	19	0.19%	18
Maine	1,344	42	\$8,470,777	43	\$24,980	39	\$18.59	9	0.29%	7
Maryland	6,046	19	\$42,271,153	16	\$80,147	11	\$13.26	18	0.19%	17
Massachusetts	6,893	15	\$58,584,003	10	\$59,066	17	\$8.57	33	0.10%	46
Michigan	9,987	10	\$71,242,329	8	\$162,236	4	\$16.24	13	0.23%	13
Minnesota	5,640	22	\$44,756,565	15	\$95,270	7	\$16.89	12	0.21%	15
Mississippi	2,976	34	\$19,209,166	34	\$25,882	37	\$8.70	32	0.13%	34
Missouri	6,137	18	\$30,465,170	26	\$36,222	29	\$5.90	43	0.12%	39
Montana	1,069	43	\$6,818,169	47	\$23,203	41	\$21.71	6	0.34%	3
Nebraska	1,934	37	\$10,396,042	39	\$35,125	31	\$18.16	11	0.34%	5
Nevada	3,080	32	\$14,808,711	36	\$46,398	24	\$15.06	16	0.31%	6
New Hampshire	1,360	41	\$7,644,196	45	\$16,967	44	\$12.48	20	0.22%	14
New Jersey	8,882	11	\$63,183,933	9	\$85,418	8	\$9.62	29	0.14%	33
New Mexico	2,097	36	\$19,688,051	33	\$25,088	38	\$11.96	22	0.13%	36
New York	19,454	4	\$178,181,029	2	\$222,346	3	\$11.43	24	0.12%	37
North Carolina	10,488	9	\$58,035,013	11	\$60,872	15	\$5.80	44	0.10%	45
North Dakota	762	47	\$7,036,658	46	\$14,667	48	\$19.25	8	0.21%	16
Ohio	11,689	7	\$71,377,803	7	\$58,421	19	\$5.00	47	0.08%	48
Oklahoma	3,957	28	\$21,988,795	29	\$31,619	35	\$7.99	35	0.14%	28
Oregon	4,218	27	\$35,070,708	20	\$83,409	10	\$19.77	7	0.24%	11
Pennsylvania	12,802	5	\$94,506,546	4	\$321,125	2	\$25.08	3	0.34%	4
Rhode Island	1,059	44	\$8,409,296	44	\$34,089	34	\$32.19	2	0.41%	2
South Carolina	5,149	23	\$29,308,909	27	\$39,722	27	\$7.71	36	0.14%	32
South Dakota	885	46	\$4,744,006	50	\$6,489	50	\$7.33	38	0.14%	31
Tennessee	6,829	16	\$32,365,809	21	\$39,212	28	\$5.74	45	0.12%	38
Texas	28,996	2	\$145,442,206	3	\$156,320	5	\$5.39	46	0.11%	44
Utah	3,206	30	\$20,307,204	32	\$23,342	40	\$7.28	39	0.11%	42
Vermont	624	49	\$6,451,859	48	\$15,103	47	\$24.20	5	0.23%	12
Virginia	8,536	12	\$53,170,303	13	\$60,681	16	\$7.11	41	0.11%	43
Washington	7,615	13	\$53,312,108	12	\$84,001	9	\$11.03	26	0.16%	25
West Virginia	1,792	38	\$13,467,261	37	\$21,576	43	\$12.04	21	0.16%	24
Wisconsin	5,822	20	\$37,773,949	19	\$67,736	12	\$11.63	23	0.18%	19
Wyoming	579	50	\$5,225,356	49	\$8,528	49	\$14.73	17	0.16%	22
TOTAL	328,240		\$2,154,099,035		\$3,285,073		\$10.01		0.15%	

* Figures in these columns are shown in thousands.

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures, based on 2019 data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census state government finance data series and population estimates, February 2021.