

Redbook

LBO Analysis of Executive Budget Proposal

State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors

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LBO Redbook

State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors

Quick look...

- The State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors, established in 1933, regulates the professions of engineering and surveying in the state of Ohio.
- In FY 2022, the Board licensed approximately 30,000 individuals and firms.
- Licensing and application fees support the Board's operations; it receives no GRF funding.
- The executive budget proposes funding of \$1.2 million for FY 2024 and \$1.3 million for FY 2025.
 - Existing service levels to be maintained.
 - Primary expenses: personal Services (73%); supplies, maintenance, and equipment (25%).

FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Estimate	FY 2024 Introduced	FY 2025 Introduced
Fund 4K90 ALI 892609, Operating Expenses					
\$1,049,946	\$996,082	\$1,113,152	\$1,343,753	\$1,233,994	\$1,281,904
% change	-5.1%	11.8%	20.7%	-8.2%	3.9%

Agency overview

The State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors, established in 1933, regulates the professions of engineering and surveying in the state of Ohio. The Board consists of five members appointed by the Governor, including four professional engineers (one of whom is also a professional surveyor) and one professional surveyor. A staff of nine full-time employees, including an executive director, handle day-to-day operations. One of those positions is currently vacant; the Board intends to fill that position in FY 2023. The Board is entirely supported by money appropriated from the Occupational Licensing Fund (Fund 4K90).

Analysis of FY 2024-FY 2025 budget proposal

Overview

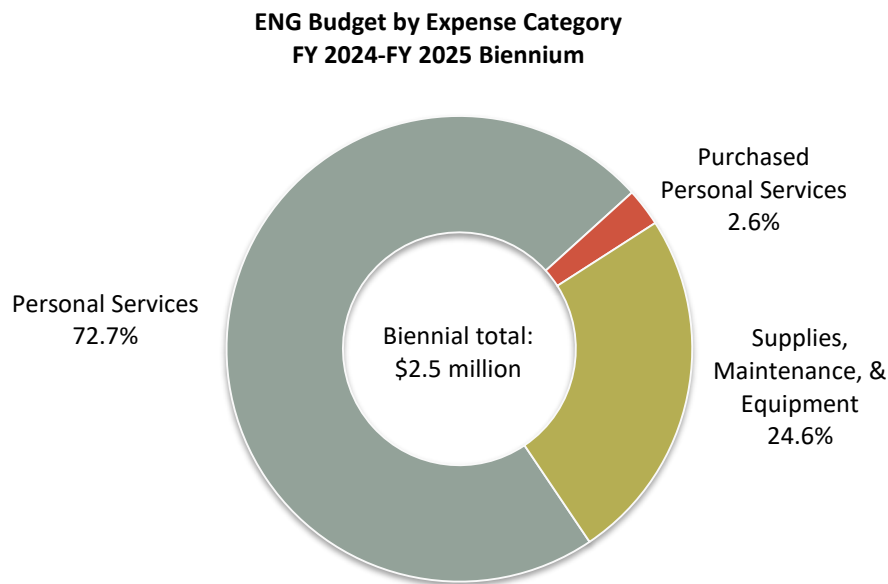
The executive recommended funding in each fiscal year will allow the Board to maintain its current operations during the FY 2024-FY 2025 biennium.

Under the executive proposal, beginning in FY 2024, the Board's eLicensing costs will no longer be paid directly by the Board and will instead be paid by the Department of Administrative Services through new DAS Fund 4K90 appropriation item 100673, Ohio Professionals Licensing System.

Executive recommendations by expense category

The chart below shows the \$2.5 million proposed biennial budget by expense category. The personal services category accounts for the largest share of the Board’s budget at 72.7%. This includes the wages and benefits for the Board’s staff, stipends for board members, and payroll processing charges. The Board typically meets eight to ten times per year.

The next largest expenditure category is supplies and maintenance totaling 24.6% of the budget. This category includes rent and information technology and other services provided by the Department of Administrative Services, as well as reimbursements for travel and other necessary expenses. Purchased personal services account for 2.6% of the Board’s budget.



Fee revenue

The Board does not receive any GRF funding. The Board receives all of its funding from application fees, renewal fees, examination fees, and fines and late fees. Table 1 below shows a selection of the current fees charged by the Board.

License Type	Fee
Application Fee – Fundamentals of Engineering (FE)/ Surveying (FS)	\$25
Application Fee – Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE)/Surveying (PS)	\$75
Final Registration Fee – PE and PS	\$50
Biennial Renewal Fee – PE and PS	\$40
Biennial Renewal for PE and PS – Late Fee	\$20

License Type	Fee
Firm Certificate of Authorization Application/ Biennial Renewal Fee	\$50
Firm Renewal – Late Fee	\$25
Firm Duplicate Certificate Fee	\$5
License Verification Request Fee	\$24
Standard or NCEES PE Comity Application*	\$415
Standard or NCEES PS Comity Application*	\$455

*NCEES refers to the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying; this application is for a person licensed in another state.

Fees collected by the Board are credited to the Occupational Licensing Fund (Fund 4K90), which is used by many occupational licensing and regulatory boards and commissions, including the Board, that use Fund 4K90 as an operating account to support their regulatory operations.

Table 2 below shows the Board’s operating and revenue expenditure history from FY 2017 through FY 2022. The Board’s biennial renewal cycle results in revenue fluctuations between odd and even-numbered fiscal years, with increased revenue and expenditures occurring in even-numbered years when individual renewals occur. The revenue collected during even-numbered fiscal years has historically been able to cover the deficit that occurs during odd-numbered fiscal years.

Category	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Revenue	\$586,641	\$1,712,990	\$566,924	\$1,684,432	\$608,395	\$1,819,121
Expenses	\$805,823	\$909,753	\$957,607	\$1,049,946	\$996,082	\$1,113,152
Net	-\$219,182	\$803,236	-\$390,683	\$634,486	-\$387,687	\$705,969

Licenses and investigation and enforcement statistics

Table 3 shows the number of active licenses issued by the Board from FY 2017 through FY 2022.

License Type	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Professional Engineer	26,500	26,086	26,917	29,949	26,622	25,597
Professional Surveyor	1,283	1,822	1,794	1,666	1,712	1,637
Engineering & Surveying Firms	2,912	2,791	3,162	3,323	3,324	3,090
Total	30,695	30,699	31,873	34,938	31,658	30,324

The Board is responsible for investigating complaints and alleged violations of Chapter 4733 of the Revised Code, which governs the engineering and surveying professions. Table 4 shows the history of those investigations from FY 2017 through FY 2022. Over that six-year period, the Board received an average of 117 and opened an average of 52 formal investigations in each fiscal year, following through with disciplinary action if substantiated.

Table 4. Enforcement Statistics, FY 2017-FY 2022

Enforcement Action	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Complaints Received	157	120	124	94	58	148
Complaints Closed	48	71	104	49	52	37
Formal Investigations Opened	85	59	49	32	26	62
Formal Investigations Closed	67	60	73	26	25	55