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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Wendy Zhan, Director

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

To: Chair Patton and Members of the House Finance Subcommittee on Transportation
From: Wendy Zhan, Director
Date: February 9, 2021
Subject: LSC FY 2022-FY 2023 budget proposal

Chair Patton and members of the subcommittee, 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.

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

¹ This figure excludes honorary resolutions and letters of commendation.

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. Travis Ricketts is the Deputy Director of CIIC and is also here today. Deputy Director Ricketts' 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 Patton and members of the subcommittee, thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Attachments: LIS Director McDowell's written testimony
CIIC Deputy Director Ricketts' written testimony
NCSL chart on legislative branch expenditures for FY 2018



OHIO LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Date: February 9, 2021
To: Chairman Patton and Members of the Finance
Subcommittee on Transportation
From: Kurt McDowell, Director
Subject: LIS FY2022-2023 Budget Testimony

Chairman Patton and members of the Finance Subcommittee on Transportation, 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 is currently working with LSC to publish the ORC and OAC which would eliminate 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

Rep. Cindy Abrams

Rep. Don Jones

Vacant

Vacant



SENATE MEMBERS

Sen. Niraj Antani

Sen. Hearcel Craig

Sen. Nathan Manning

Sen. Sandra Williams

House Finance Subcommittee on Transportation

House Bill XX Testimony

February 9, 2021

Chairman Patton, Ranking Member Skindell, and Members of the House Finance Subcommittee on Transportation; thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today on House Bill XX.

Established in 1977, the Correctional Institution Inspection Committee (CIIC) is a bipartisan committee of the Ohio General Assembly, which 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 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 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. 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 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 today,

Travis Ricketts,
Deputy Director

Legislative Branch Expenditures for FY 2018
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	4,888	24	\$29,951,784	26	\$44,525	23	\$9.11	30	0.15%	24
Alaska	737	48	\$10,446,105	39	\$68,497	10	\$92.94	1	0.66%	1
Arizona	7,172	14	\$36,650,241	18	\$29,751	35	\$4.15	49	0.08%	47
Arkansas	3,014	33	\$20,438,295	31	\$53,061	22	\$17.60	6	0.26%	7
California	39,557	1	\$319,549,260	1	\$397,490	1	\$10.05	26	0.12%	38
Colorado	5,696	21	\$31,696,427	21	\$37,382	27	\$6.56	41	0.12%	42
Connecticut	3,573	29	\$22,583,290	28	\$56,076	18	\$15.69	10	0.25%	8
Delaware	967	45	\$9,104,556	42	\$15,588	46	\$16.12	9	0.17%	18
Florida	21,299	3	\$86,782,792	5	\$137,765	5	\$6.47	42	0.16%	23
Georgia	10,519	8	\$44,593,220	14	\$35,391	31	\$3.36	50	0.08%	49
Hawaii	1,420	40	\$12,068,515	38	\$36,649	28	\$25.81	3	0.30%	4
Idaho	1,754	39	\$9,113,460	41	\$17,314	44	\$9.87	28	0.19%	15
Illinois	12,741	6	\$76,875,407	6	\$58,986	14	\$4.63	48	0.08%	50
Indiana	6,692	17	\$38,771,326	17	\$54,419	21	\$8.13	34	0.14%	28
Iowa	3,156	31	\$20,952,954	30	\$35,707	30	\$11.31	21	0.17%	19
Kansas	2,912	35	\$17,632,190	35	\$21,631	42	\$7.43	38	0.12%	39
Kentucky	4,468	26	\$30,635,111	23	\$44,053	24	\$9.86	29	0.14%	26
Louisiana	4,660	25	\$30,403,826	24	\$59,011	13	\$12.66	14	0.19%	14
Maine	1,338	42	\$8,154,539	43	\$22,203	39	\$16.59	7	0.27%	5
Maryland	6,043	19	\$40,435,641	16	\$75,008	9	\$12.41	15	0.19%	16
Massachusetts	6,902	15	\$56,700,849	10	\$58,166	15	\$8.43	32	0.10%	46
Michigan	9,996	10	\$67,189,291	8	\$135,580	6	\$13.56	11	0.20%	13
Minnesota	5,611	22	\$43,337,146	15	\$56,015	19	\$9.98	27	0.13%	33
Mississippi	2,987	34	\$18,660,117	34	\$24,497	36	\$8.20	33	0.13%	31
Missouri	6,126	18	\$30,079,041	25	\$35,949	29	\$5.87	43	0.12%	41
Montana	1,062	43	\$6,595,193	46	\$17,457	43	\$16.44	8	0.26%	6
Nebraska	1,929	37	\$10,317,689	40	\$23,086	38	\$11.97	17	0.22%	9
Nevada	3,034	32	\$14,610,813	36	\$32,396	33	\$10.68	24	0.22%	10
New Hampshire	1,356	41	\$7,521,532	45	\$15,681	45	\$11.56	19	0.21%	12
New Jersey	8,909	11	\$62,187,390	9	\$81,038	8	\$9.10	31	0.13%	32
New Mexico	2,095	36	\$18,973,297	33	\$21,687	41	\$10.35	25	0.11%	43
New York	19,542	4	\$173,766,965	2	\$222,311	3	\$11.38	20	0.13%	34
North Carolina	10,384	9	\$54,506,230	11	\$57,418	16	\$5.53	45	0.11%	45
North Dakota	760	47	\$6,539,038	48	\$8,838	48	\$11.63	18	0.14%	30
Ohio	11,689	7	\$70,721,000	7	\$56,517	17	\$4.84	47	0.08%	48
Oklahoma	3,943	28	\$21,147,798	29	\$30,041	34	\$7.62	36	0.14%	27
Oregon	4,191	27	\$32,946,999	20	\$55,169	20	\$13.16	13	0.17%	20
Pennsylvania	12,807	5	\$87,902,698	4	\$311,484	2	\$24.32	4	0.35%	3
Rhode Island	1,057	44	\$8,070,396	44	\$32,999	32	\$31.22	2	0.41%	2
South Carolina	5,084	23	\$28,984,861	27	\$39,253	25	\$7.72	35	0.14%	29
South Dakota	882	46	\$4,645,544	50	\$5,943	50	\$6.74	40	0.13%	35
Tennessee	6,770	16	\$30,963,512	22	\$39,077	26	\$5.77	44	0.13%	36
Texas	28,702	2	\$132,368,456	3	\$143,136	4	\$4.99	46	0.11%	44
Utah	3,161	30	\$19,663,786	32	\$23,917	37	\$7.57	37	0.12%	40
Vermont	626	49	\$6,546,073	47	\$14,045	47	\$22.44	5	0.21%	11
Virginia	8,518	12	\$50,395,859	12	\$62,841	12	\$7.38	39	0.12%	37
Washington	7,536	13	\$50,357,945	13	\$82,462	7	\$10.94	23	0.16%	21
West Virginia	1,806	38	\$13,703,084	37	\$22,054	40	\$12.21	16	0.16%	22
Wisconsin	5,814	20	\$36,483,821	19	\$63,883	11	\$10.99	22	0.18%	17
Wyoming	578	50	\$5,229,522	49	\$7,666	49	\$13.26	12	0.15%	25
TOTAL	327,167		\$2,038,003,100		\$3,036,588		\$9.28		0.15%	

* Figures in these columns are shown in thousands.

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures, based on 2018 data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census state government finance data series and population estimates, April 2020.