

State of Ohio
State Employment Relations Board

Role and Overview

The State Employment Relations Board (SERB) supervises collective bargaining practices involving employees of the state, its political subdivisions, and its local boards of education. The board acts as a neutral, quasi-judicial body in administering Ohio's collective bargaining laws; conducting representation elections; certifying exclusive bargaining representatives; monitoring and enforcing statutory dispute resolution procedures; resolving unfair labor practice charges; determining unauthorized strike claims; and providing collective bargaining data to assist parties in resolving negotiation issues.

The three-member board was created by Ohio's Public Employees' Collective Bargaining Act of 1983. The members are appointed by the Governor and serve six-year terms. A staff of 28 assists the board, which has an annual budget of approximately \$3.2 million. More information regarding the State Employment Relations Board is available at <http://www.serb.state.oh.us>.

Executive Priorities for the State Employment Relations Board

- Promote orderly and constructive relationships between all public employers and their employees.
- Administer and enforce the provisions governing collective bargaining in public employment.

Summary of Budget History and Recommendations

(In thousands) BUDGET FUND GROUP	ACTUAL			ESTIMATE FY 2005	% CHANGE FY 04-05	RECOMMENDED			
	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004			FY 2006	% CHANGE	FY 2007	% CHANGE
General Revenue Fund	3,292	3,149	3,088	3,170	2.7	3,265	3.0	3,363	3.0
General Services Fund Group	55	152	32	76	134.0	76	.0	76	.0
TOTAL	3,347	3,301	3,120	3,246	4.0	3,341	2.9	3,439	2.9

(In thousands) OBJECT OF EXPENSE	ACTUAL			ESTIMATE FY 2005	% CHANGE FY 04-05	RECOMMENDED			
	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004			FY 2006	% CHANGE	FY 2007	% CHANGE
Personal Services	2,645	2,664	2,514	2,552	1.5	2,710	6.2	2,783	2.7
Purchased Services	159	177	77	128	65.8	163	27.4	183	12.4
Maintenance	520	395	478	527	10.3	439	(16.9)	443	1.0
Equipment	22	11	49	38	(22.6)	29	(22.6)	29	.3
Transfer & Other	1	54	2	0	(100.0)	0	.0	0	.0
TOTAL	3,347	3,301	3,120	3,246	4.0	3,341	2.9	3,439	2.9

State Employment Relations Board

PROGRAM SERIES 01: Collective Bargaining Act Administration

This program series administers the Ohio Public Employees' Collective Bargaining Act by performing interfacing functions of investigation, adjudication, education, and dispute resolution. For example, dispute resolution functions occur throughout the investigation and, to be effective, are consistently featured in SERB's education/training efforts.

Program 01.01: Labor Disputes

This program assists parties with active labor issues by mediating contract negotiations, investigating and attempting to mediate or hear and decide alleged unfair labor practices, and processing petitions parties have filed to resolve questions concerning representation.

What the Budget Buys:

- Allows the board to reach its goals to complete cases within 150 days in the Investigations Section, to maintain an average of no more than 120 days in the Hearings Section for cases directed by the Board to hearing, and to allow no new representation case to become more than 180 days old without being submitted for placement on the Board's agenda;
- Supports mediation to intervene in contract negotiations as required by statute;
- Funds dispute prevention work to avert costly, lengthy negotiations and strikes; and
- Supports implementation of a basic system for freer access by customers to documents in the board's electronic database.

FUND GROUP	FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	RECOMMENDED	
				FY 2006	FY 2007
GRF	GRF	125-321	Operating Expenses	2,769,056	2,852,129
TOTAL FOR PROGRAM				2,769,056	2,852,129

Program 01.02: Research and Training

This program provides for the avoidance of costly public sector labor disputes, by gathering, analyzing, and providing information relating to conditions of employment of public employees throughout the state. SERB fulfills statutory requirements to provide public employer and employee organizations working at all levels of government in Ohio with the information and training needed to comply with the Ohio Public Employees' Collective Bargaining Act and to negotiate collective bargaining agreements successfully.

What the Budget Buys:

- Continues the current level of staffing available to analyze public employer labor contracts for information on 103 separate employment terms and to enter those terms into an electronic database; and
- Funds implementation of a basic system for electronic submission of contracts and contract information.

FUND GROUP	FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	RECOMMENDED	
				FY 2006	FY 2007
GRF	GRF	125-321	Operating Expenses	496,341	511,230
GSF	572	125-603	Training and Publications	75,541	75,541
TOTAL FOR PROGRAM				571,882	586,771

LINE ITEM SUMMARY - Employment Relations Board

FUND	ALI	ALI TITLE	FY 2002 ACTUAL	FY 2003 ACTUAL	FY 2004 ACTUAL	FY 2005 ESTIMATE	FY 2006 RECOMMENDED	% CHANGE	FY 2007 RECOMMENDED	% CHANGE
GRF	125-321	Operating Expenses	3,291,722	3,149,366	3,087,838	3,170,288	3,265,397	3.0	3,363,359	3.0
TOTAL General Revenue Fund			3,291,722	3,149,366	3,087,838	3,170,288	3,265,397	3.0	3,363,359	3.0
572	125-603	Training and Publications	55,440	151,735	32,279	75,541	75,541	.0	75,541	.0
TOTAL General Services Fund Group			55,440	151,735	32,279	75,541	75,541	.0	75,541	.0
TOTAL Employment Relations Board			3,347,162	3,301,101	3,120,117	3,245,829	3,340,938	2.9	3,438,900	2.9