

State of Ohio
Senate

Role and Overview

The role of the Senate (SEN), in conjunction with the House of Representatives, is to enact the laws of the state. The authority to do so is provided in Article II of the Ohio Constitution. The Senate considers bills that may alter existing law or create new laws and resolutions, which are formal expressions of the wishes and opinions of the legislature. The Senate also must confirm members of state boards and commissions appointed by the Governor, the Attorney General, the Director of the Bureau of Workers' Compensation, and other certain agency heads whom the Governor is authorized to appoint.

The Senate and the House of Representatives are the two "houses" that comprise the bicameral Ohio General Assembly. Each member of the Senate is elected for a four-year term from one of the state's 33 Senate districts. Each Senate district is made up of three House districts. Elections are held for the Senate every two years with half of the Senate members elected each time. Each member is assigned to at least one standing committee. A member also may be assigned to a select committee, which undertakes a specific legislative task; a joint-select committee, which consists of members from both the Senate and the House; or a conference committee, which seeks to resolve the differences between versions of a bill passed by both houses of the legislature. Members represent the citizens in their districts and serve as liaisons between groups and individuals in their districts and state and federal agencies. Members also respond to questions and concerns of their constituents.

In addition, members may be appointed to serve on statutorily created committees such as the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review, which has the power to review and invalidate agency rules; or the state Controlling Board, which provides legislative oversight over certain capital and operating expenditures by state agencies.

The 33 members of the Senate are supported by a staff of approximately 125 full-time employees and 40 part-time pages, with an annual budget of approximately \$11.9 million.

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	11,349	10,130	10,378	11,432	10.2	11,546	1.0	11,662	1.0
General Services Fund Group	7	11	110	478	336.0	478	.0	478	.0
TOTAL	11,355	10,141	10,487	11,910	13.6	12,025	1.0	12,140	1.0

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(In thousands) OBJECT OF EXPENSE	FY 2002	ACTUAL		ESTIMATE FY 2005	% CHANGE FY 04-05	RECOMMENDED			
		FY 2003	FY 2004			FY 2006	% CHANGE	FY 2007	% CHANGE
Personal Services	9,140	9,104	9,596	10,382	8.2	10,536	1.5	10,642	1.0
Purchased Services	116	11	1	50	4,022. 0	0	(100.0)	0	.0
Maintenance	1,483	985	812	1,478	82.0	1,488	.7	1,498	.7
Equipment	616	35	72	0	(100.0)	0	.0	0	.0
Goods For Resale	0	6	6	0	(100.0)	0	.0	0	.0
Transfer & Other	0	0	0	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0
TOTAL	11,355	10,141	10,487	11,910	13.6	12,025	1.0	12,140	1.0

PROGRAM SERIES 01: Senate

This program series supports the efforts of state senators and their staffs to represent their districts.

Program 01.01: Senate

This program serves to promote the role and responsibilities of the Ohio Senate. Each member of the Senate is elected to a four-year term from one of the state's 33 Senate districts during which time they are assigned to at least one standing committees or subcommittees. Senators are also assigned to a select committee, a joint select committee, or a conference committee.

What the Budget Buys:

As required by Section 107.03(B) of the Revised Code, the Governor has made no alterations to the funding requests of agencies of the legislative branch of government. Recommended amounts are as requested by the agency.

- Provides compensation to the 33 members of the Senate and approximately 125 legislative staff and 40 part-time pages.

FUND GROUP	FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	RECOMMENDED	
				FY 2006	FY 2007
GRF	GRF	020-321	Operating Expenses	11,546,357	11,661,821
GSF	102	020-602	Senate Reimbursement	444,025	444,025
GSF	409	020-601	Miscellaneous Sales	34,155	34,155
TOTAL FOR PROGRAM				12,024,537	12,140,001

LINE ITEM SUMMARY - Senate

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	020-321	Operating Expenses	11,348,651	10,129,927	10,377,782	11,432,037	11,546,357	1.0	11,661,821	1.0
TOTAL General Revenue Fund			11,348,651	10,129,927	10,377,782	11,432,037	11,546,357	1.0	11,661,821	1.0
102	020-602	Senate Reimbursement	2,743	5,589	103,803	444,025	444,025	.0	444,025	.0
409	020-601	Miscellaneous Sales	4,100	5,880	5,880	34,155	34,155	.0	34,155	.0
TOTAL General Services Fund Group			6,843	11,469	109,683	478,180	478,180	.0	478,180	.0
TOTAL The Ohio Senate			11,355,494	10,141,396	10,487,465	11,910,217	12,024,537	1.0	12,140,001	1.0