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## Joint Legislative Ethics Committee

### Role and Overview

The [Joint Legislative Ethics Committee \(JLE\)](#) establishes a code of ethics consistent with law to govern all members and employees of the state legislature and all candidates seeking election to the legislature. The committee also investigates claims alleging a breach of privilege, conflict of interest or violation of the state ethics laws, by any candidate for legislative office, legislative member, or employee in either the Senate or the House of Representatives.

The committee consists of 12 members of the legislature. The Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate appoint six members each, not more than three can be from the same political party. The Speaker and the President annually alternate appointing the chairman and vice-chairman of the committee. The committee employs an executive director and a staff of five to assist in the exercise of its duties. The staff is known as the Office of the Legislative Inspector General. The staff also administers legislative, executive agency and retirement system lobbyist registrations and filings. The office has an annual budget of approximately \$550,000.

The committee may obtain information concerning any complaint filed against a member of, employee of, or candidate for the legislature and may enforce the attendance and testimony of witnesses during hearings. The committee may recommend appropriate sanctions against a particular member, employee, or candidate. The committee may recommend legislation relating to the conduct and ethics of legislative members, employees, and candidates. The committee also may act as an advisory body to the legislature and to individual members, employees, and candidates regarding possible conflicts of interest. Legislative officials and employees file their annual financial disclosure statements with the committee.

Persons regularly engaged in lobbying activity and their employers are required to register with the JLEC administrative Office of the Legislator Inspector General, and are also required to submit reports three times each calendar year of certain expenditures and certain financial transactions in connection with lobbying activity. Lobbying includes activity to influence legislation, executive agency decisions, or a decision of a state retirement system. The registration statements and reports of expenditures and transactions are kept on file by JLEC, which also maintains lists of registered legislative agents, executive agency lobbyists, retirement systems lobbyists, and their respective employers. The list of lobbyists and their employers is updated semiannually and distributed to department-level agencies and the General Assembly. Violations under Chapters 101 or 121 of the Revised Code are referred to the Attorney General.

All documents filed with JLEC and the searchable database of lobbyists and lobbyist employers are posted to the office Website.

### Executive Priorities for the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee

- Establish a Code of Ethics for the legislative branch of state government.
- Ensure awareness of and compliance with the state's standards of ethics, as defined in the Ohio Revised Code, through the provision of reliable advisory services to the legislature and lobbying organizations in an effort to avoid potential violations of the ethics law and related statutes.
- Enforce ethics laws through the investigation of claims alleging breach of privilege, conflict of interest, or violation of ethics laws
- Render advisory opinions on questions of privilege, conflict of interest and ethics laws
- Administer Ohio lobbying laws for legislative, executive branch and retirement systems lobbyists

# Joint Legislative Ethics Committee

## Summary of Budget History and Recommendations

(In thousands) BUDGET FUND GROUP	FY 2002	ACTUAL		ESTIMATE FY 2005	% CHANGE FY 04-05	RECOMMENDED			
		FY 2003	FY 2004			FY 2006	% CHANGE	FY 2007	% CHANGE
General Revenue Fund	415	442	473	550	16.3	550	.0	550	.0
General Services Fund Group	26	33	0	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>.0</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>.0</b>

(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	335	362	374	409	9.3	409	.0	409	.0
Purchased Services	27	31	21	25	19.9	25	.0	25	.0
Maintenance	79	80	76	114	50.1	100	(12.3)	100	.0
Equipment	0	2	2	2	5.3	16	700.0	16	.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>.0</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>.0</b>

### PROGRAM SERIES 01: Legislative Inspector General

This program series includes one program to enable the Legislative Inspector General to fulfill its statutory mission.

#### Program 01.01: Legislative Inspector General

This program supports the establishment and enforcement of a standard code of ethics consistent with law to govern all members and employees of the state legislature and all candidates seeking election to the legislature. The committee also investigates claims alleging a breach of privilege, conflict of interest or violation of the state ethics laws, by any candidate for legislative office, legislative member, or employee in either the Senate or the House of Representatives.

#### What the Budget Buys:

- Supports the efforts of the agency's five staff and twelve committee members to establish and enforce ethics regulations for the legislative branch, executive branch and retirement systems lobbyists;
- Funds the investigation of claims alleging breach of privilege, conflict of interest, or violation of ethics laws; and
- Provides for the preparation of ender advisory opinions on questions of privilege, conflict of interest, and ethics laws.

FUND GROUP	FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	RECOMMENDED	
				FY 2006	FY 2007
GRF	GRF	028-321	Legislative Ethics Committee	550,000	550,000
<b>TOTAL FOR PROGRAM</b>				<b>550,000</b>	<b>550,000</b>

## LINE ITEM SUMMARY - Joint Legislative Ethics Committee

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	028-321	Legislative Ethics Committee	415,493	441,551	472,972	550,000	550,000	.0	550,000	.0
<b>TOTAL General Revenue Fund</b>			<b>415,493</b>	<b>441,551</b>	<b>472,972</b>	<b>550,000</b>	<b>550,000</b>	<b>.0</b>	<b>550,000</b>	<b>.0</b>
4G7	028-601	Jt Legislative Ethics Committee	26,305	33,316	0	0	0	.0	0	.0
<b>TOTAL General Services Fund Group</b>			<b>26,305</b>	<b>33,316</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>.0</b>
<b>TOTAL Joint Legislative Ethics Comm.</b>			<b>441,798</b>	<b>474,867</b>	<b>472,972</b>	<b>550,000</b>	<b>550,000</b>	<b>.0</b>	<b>550,000</b>	<b>.0</b>