

FY 2012-2013 Budget Testimony

Before the Ohio Senate Finance Committee



Presented by
Stephanie K. Youst, Executive Secretary
May 4, 2011

State Board of Sanitarian Registration
77 South High Street, 16th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6108
Phone: (614) 466-1772
Fax: (614) 644-8112
E-mail: stephanie.youst@exchange.state.oh.us
Website: <http://sanitarian.ohio.gov>

Testimony of Stephanie K. Youst
Executive Secretary
State Board of Sanitarian Registration
Senate Finance Committee
May 4, 2011

Chairman Widener and members of the Committee, I am Stephanie Youst, Executive Secretary for the State Board of Sanitarian Registration. Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding the Board's fiscal year 2012-2013 Executive Budget recommendation of \$141,839 for fiscal year 2012 and \$126,850 for fiscal year 2013 and to answer any questions the committee may have about the continuing operations and the funding requirements of the Sanitarian Registration Board for the upcoming biennium.

Introduction and Board Overview

The State Board of Sanitarian Registration's mission is to protect public health by ensuring registered sanitarians, who are defined as professionals engaged in the practice of environmental health, possess and maintain specialized knowledge and skills in the field of environmental health. The Board's mission is accomplished by the examination of registrants, continuing education requirements, and the investigation of complaints filed with the Board pursuant to Chapter 4736. of the Revised Code.

Registered sanitarians conduct inspections and provide consultation and instruction in environmental health programs such as food protection, dairy sanitation, drinking water quality, private wastewater management, solid waste, and institutional health and safety.

The Sanitarian Registration Board employs 1.3 FTE to accomplish its mission, including a full-time Executive Secretary and an Intermittent Clerk at 1,000 hours per fiscal year. The Board consists of seven members, which include the Director's representative from the Ohio Department of Health, the Director's representative from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and five members appointed by the Governor representing general health districts, city health districts, universities, and private industries. Board members do not receive per diem and are only reimbursed for necessary

travel expenses incurred while attending one-day Board meetings in Columbus, Ohio. Board members not only conduct business during Board meetings, but also devote additional hours of service reviewing Board material and consulting with the Executive Secretary.

During the current biennium, the Board provided the following services to meet its mission.

- Reviewed over 2,000 continuing education requests for approval.
- Reviewed and commented on the education and experience of over 260 applicants.
- Administered examinations to over 85 candidates seeking registration.
- Ensured continuing education compliance through the annual renewal and auditing of all registrants.
- Improved and updated the Board website to be more user friendly.

The Executive Budget recommendations will allow the Board to continue to provide this level of service in the upcoming biennium.

The Executive Budget recommendation for the Board is \$141,839 for fiscal year 2012 and \$126,850 for fiscal year 2013, which is an increase in funding for fiscal year 2012 and a decrease in fiscal year 2013 compared to the funding level that the Board was given for fiscal years 2010 through 2011. The funding level for fiscal year 2012 is higher because the Board requested an additional \$15,000 to pay for the mandatory biennial audit conducted by the Auditor of State's office.

The only area of concern with the current budget recommendation is that historically the Board's maintenance account has run approximately \$15,000 per year. While preparing the Board's budget request, I identified areas where the Board could cut costs and was able to reduce the expenditures by approximately \$2,000 overall. However, after the budget request was submitted, the Boards and Commissions were notified that there would be a new internet connectivity fee of \$265 per month, increasing the Board's maintenance account costs by \$3,200 per fiscal year. Though I had tried to cut the

Board's expenditures during the allotment process, the increase in fees has led me to believe that in fiscal year 2013 the Board will run a deficit of approximately \$3,000.

The Board did propose fee increases for the fiscal year 2012-2013 which will result in approximately an additional \$10,000 per fiscal year allowing the Board's revenue and expenditures to remain equal. As the table on page 4 indicates, the fee increase is needed for long range planning to allow for stability in upcoming biennia. The Board's appropriation for fiscal years 2012 and 2013 will be partially covered by spending down the monies that the Board has accrued in Fund 4K90. The fee increase will allow enough revenue to be collected to cover future costs in future biennia.

Revenues / Expenditures

The State Board of Sanitarian Registration is a non-GRF funded agency. Similar to all professional licensing boards, the Sanitarian Registration Board is required to generate sufficient revenue to meet its expenditures. Fees generated by the Board are deposited into Fund 4K90, the joint professional regulatory board fund. The Office of Budget and Management ensures that the board collects enough revenue to support its budgetary needs. In addition, appropriated funds not spent in a given fiscal year are returned to the fund and credited to the board's balance.

The table below shows the Board's appropriations, revenues, expenditures, and contribution to the 4K90 fund since Fiscal Year 2007.

Historical Revenues/Expenditures

	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Budget Appropriation	\$138,551	\$138,551	\$138,551	\$130,000
Revenue	\$143,582	\$137,045	\$128,985	\$126,416
Expenditure	\$107,605	\$127,426	\$111,875	\$128,697
4K90 Contribution	\$35,977	\$9,619	\$26,676	\$1,303

Even though it has declined, revenue has been consistent and predictable for the Board. Each biennium the Board evaluates its operating expenses and if needed, proposes fee increases to cover operating expenses.

The executive budget recommendations for fiscal years 2012 and 2013 are sufficient to maintain the current operations of the Board as growth in the program has been relatively static and fees have increased as follows:

- FY's 2004/2005: 13% fee increase
- FY's 2006/2007: 7% fee increase
- FY's 2008/2009: no increases in fees were proposed
- FY's 2010/2011: 9% Fee increase was proposed but not granted
- FY's 2012/2013: 9% Fee increase was proposed and included in the Executive Budget recommendation

The actual and projected revenue for the Board is as follows:

- FY 2009 Actual Revenue: \$128,985
- FY 2010 Actual Revenue: \$126,416
- FY 2011 Projected Revenue: \$127,000
- FY 2012 Projected Revenue: \$132,000
- FY 2013 Projected Revenue: \$137,000

In conclusion, the Board's primary objective during the budget process is to continue the existing level of staffing, operation, service, and maintain its commitment to operating within its financial resources. By approving the Board's fiscal year 2012 and 2013 budget request, the Board will be able to continue its mission of public health protection and meet its objectives during the coming biennium. The State Board of Sanitarian Registration will continue developing initiatives that enhance the ethical and fiscal accountability of the Board; and utilize existing technology to ensure more individuals are able to readily apply for registration as a sanitarian and enter the workforce to contribute to Ohio's economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding the Board's budget recommendation. At this time I would like to answer any questions you may have.