

Analysis of Budget Request

Appropriation: 069 - Abstracter's Board-Operations

Funding Sources: SXA - Arkanas Abstracters' Board Fund

Act 109 of 1969 established a three member Abstracter's Board of Examiners. During the last biennium, Act 1042 of 2007 increased the Board to five members. The Board has the responsibility to regulate and license both abstract companies and individual abstracters of real estate titles. The Board schedules and administers a semi-annual examination to individuals seeking certification as a registered abstracter. Over 300 individuals and 125 firm licenses are issued and renewed each year. Funding is derived from special revenues collected based on fees charged for licenses, examinations, and transfers in accordance to Arkansas Code 17-11-302 and 17-11-322 (b).

Base Level position was changed from unclassified to classified to reflect the recommendations of the Pay Plan Study and salaries were adjusted accordingly. A 2.3% Cost of Living Allowance is reflected in the second year of the biennium. The Base Level request for Regular Salaries may include board member Stipend payments and Career Service payments for eligible employees. Personal Services Matching includes a \$75 increase in the monthly contribution for State employee's health insurance for a total State match per budgeted employee of \$425.

The Base Level Request is \$32,618 in FY10 and \$33,191 in FY11.

The Change Level Requests submitted are \$ 26,128 in FY10 and \$ 23,128 in FY11 and are summarized as follows:

1. Operating Expenses of \$23,070 in both FY10 and FY11 for increases in setting up and maintaining an office, an increase in Board member travel expenses, and the ability to utilize a court reporter's services for complaint hearings.
2. Information Technology needs in Operating Expenses of \$3,058 in FY10 and \$58 in FY11. This includes replacement of an outdated computer with the latest Microsoft Office and anti-virus software and a fax/copier.

The Executive Recommendation provides for Base Level and \$10,000 in appropriation each year of the Biennium.

The Legislative Recommendation concurs with the Executive Recommendation and also reduces Regular Salaries and related Personal Services Matching to reflect a part-time salary for the Secretary General position with a 2.3% increase each year over the current part-time salary.

Appropriation Summary

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Commitment Item		2007-2008	2008-2009	2008-2009	2009-2010			2010-2011		
		Actual	Budget	Authorized	Agency	Executive	Legislative	Agency	Executive	Legislative
Regular Salaries	5010000	10,770	19,993	20,193	21,017	21,017	11,018	21,500	21,500	11,271
#Positions		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Personal Services Matching	5010003	5,028	7,930	8,264	9,034	9,034	7,162	9,124	9,124	7,209
Operating Expenses	5020002	2,567	2,567	2,567	28,695	12,567	12,567	25,695	12,567	12,567
Conference & Travel Expenses	5050009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Professional Fees	5060010	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Data Processing	5090012	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Outlay	5120011	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		18,365	30,490	31,024	58,746	42,618	30,747	56,319	43,191	31,047
Funding Sources										
Fund Balance	4000005	19,991	34,483		38,308	38,308	38,308	17,691	33,819	45,690
Special Revenue	4000030	32,857	34,315		38,129	38,129	38,129	38,628	38,628	38,628
Total Funding		52,848	68,798		76,437	76,437	76,437	56,319	72,447	84,318
Excess Appropriation/(Funding)		(34,483)	(38,308)		(17,691)	(33,819)	(45,690)	0	(29,256)	(53,271)
Grand Total		18,365	30,490		58,746	42,618	30,747	56,319	43,191	31,047