

STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

Enabling Laws

Act 39 of 2016
A.C.A. §17-90-201 thru 306
A.C.A. §17-90-401

History and Organization

Functions of the Board involve administering examinations to doctors who wish to practice optometry in Arkansas. Every Doctor of Optometry has to renew his or her license to practice optometry in Arkansas each year. This involves the doctors reporting to the Board the number of hours of continuing education they have received during the year, and paying the license renewal fee. The Board requires each doctor to have obtained at least twelve hours of continuing education during the year to renew the license.

The Board of Optometry must approve the courses, seminars, and conferences that are available to Doctors of Optometry in order for the hours available at these meetings to be acceptable toward license renewal in Arkansas.

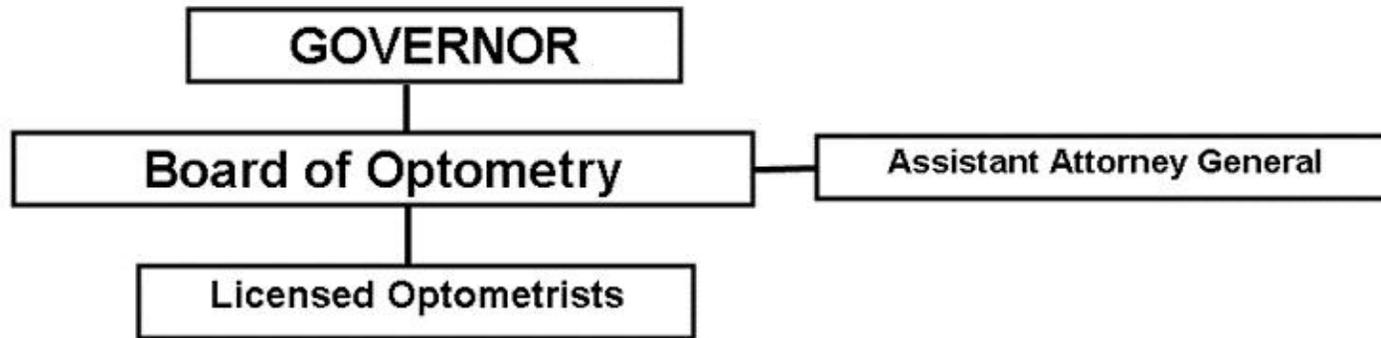
The Board of Optometry also issues a duplicate license to be displayed at each branch office at which an optometrist works. In addition to the branch office license, the Board issues Corporation Licenses and Drug Certificates each year.

The Board has seven members, consisting of five optometrists and two public members. The Governor appoints each for a term of five years. The Attorney General's office approves the legal officer for the Board.

In 1978, the courts said it was legal for professional persons to advertise their services. This has created problems for all Boards with regard to advertising that is false and misleading. The Board of Optometry has set guidelines for advertising that helps keep the public from being misled.

In 1997, the optometry law was changed to allow optometrist to prescribe oral medications and controlled substances. This new law also required the optometrists to receive more continuing education each year and pass a test to become an optometric physician. Only optometrists with the qualifications of an optometric physician can practice at the higher level. The requirements for license renewal as an optometric physician require at least (20) twenty hours of continuing education each year.

The Board of Optometry is required by statute to meet at least twice annually, but meetings are held at least every three months. Except for the meeting to administer the board examinations, the meetings are held in the Office of the Attorney General. Currently the Board licenses 448 optometrists.



Agency Commentary

The Board of Optometry is requesting to continue its Base Level operating appropriation for the 2017-2019 Biennium. Funding is provided from license renewals and fees collected by the Board.

The Board of Optometry's staff use the exist appropriation and funding to provide the following:

1. Board Website: www.aoptometry.org <<http://www.aoptometry.org>>
2. Maintain the website with the following information.
 - List of all Doctors for insurance purposes
 - Time of next meeting
 - On-line correspondence course for license renewal
 - Rules and regulations
 - Laws
 - Minutes of past meetings

- A listing of the current Board members
3. Renew the license of 508 Doctors annually
 4. Receive any and all complaints against Doctors of Optometry
 5. Have an office open to the public 4 days a week and answer the phone 5 days a week

All Board administrative and operating services are provided by a two person staff: Executive Director and Secretary.

Audit Findings

DIVISION OF LEGISLATIVE AUDIT
 AUDIT OF :
 ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015

Findings	Recommendations
None	None

State Contracts Over \$50,000 Awarded To Minority Owned Businesses Fiscal Year 2016

None

Employment Summary

	Male	Female	Total	%
White Employees	1	1	2	100 %
Black Employees	0	0	0	0 %
Other Racial Minorities	0	0	0	0 %
Total Minorities			0	0 %
Total Employees			2	100 %

Cash Fund Balance Description as of June 30, 2016

Fund Account	Balance	Type	Location
3200000	\$309,633	Checking, MM, Savings	First Security, Searcy, Arkansas

Statutory/Other Restrictions on use:

ACA 17-90-303

Statutory Provisions for Fees, Fines, Penalties:

ACA 17-90-203, 204

Revenue Receipts Cycle:

License renewal from December to February each year.

Fund Balance Utilization:

Funds are collected in December and January each year. The agency budgets carefully for the full twelve months.

Fund Account
PGP0000

Balance
\$13,893

Type
Payroll

Location
State Treasury

Statutory/Other Restrictions on use:

ACA 17-90-303

Statutory Provisions for Fees, Fines, Penalties:

ACA 17-90-203, 204

Revenue Receipts Cycle:

Funds transferred from Operating Account - 3200000 as required to process payroll obligations.

Fund Balance Utilization:

Fund balance is carried forward to process payroll related expenses for the following year.

Publications

A.C.A. 25-1-201 et seq.

Name	Statutory Authorization	Required for		# of Copies	Reason(s) for Continued Publication and Distribution	Unbound Black & White Copies Produced During the Last Two Years	Cost of Unbound Copies Produced During the Last Two Years
		Governor	General Assembly				
None	N/A	N	N	0	N/A	0	0.00

Agency Position Usage Report

FY2014 - 2015						FY2015 - 2016						FY2016 - 2017					
Authorized in Act	Budgeted			Unbudgeted Total	% of Authorized Unused	Authorized in Act	Budgeted			Unbudgeted Total	% of Authorized Unused	Authorized in Act	Budgeted			Unbudgeted Total	% of Authorized Unused
	Filled	Unfilled	Total				Filled	Unfilled	Total				Filled	Unfilled	Total		
2	2	0	2	0	0.00 %	2	2	0	2	0	0.00 %	2	2	0	2	0	0.00 %

Analysis of Budget Request

Appropriation: A27 - Optometry Operations

Funding Sources: 320 - Optometry Board-Cash

The State Board of Optometry is funded with fees charged by the Agency, as authorized by Arkansas Code §17-90-401.

Base Level Regular Salaries and Personal Services Matching include the continuation of the previously authorized 2017 Salaries and Career Service Payments for eligible employees. Personal Services Matching includes the monthly contribution for State employee's health insurance for a total State match per budgeted employee of \$420 per month. Base Level salaries and matching do not include appropriation for a Cost of Living Adjustment or Merit Pay Increases. The Base Level request for Regular Salaries includes board member stipend payments.

Base Level for the Board is \$185,935 each year of the biennium and provides for two (2) positions and operating costs for the Board.

The Board is requesting Base Level for the 2017 - 2019 Biennium.

The Executive Recommendation provides for Agency Request. Expenditure of appropriation is contingent upon available funding.

Appropriation Summary

Appropriation: A27 - Optometry Operations
Funding Sources: 320 - Optometry Board-Cash

Historical Data

Agency Request and Executive Recommendation

Commitment Item		Historical Data			Agency Request and Executive Recommendation			Agency Request and Executive Recommendation		
		2015-2016 Actual	2016-2017 Budget	2016-2017 Authorized	2017-2018			2018-2019		
					Base Level	Agency	Executive	Base Level	Agency	Executive
Regular Salaries	5010000	91,196	79,246	73,810	79,246	79,246	79,246	79,246	79,246	79,246
#Positions		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Personal Services Matching	5010003	28,107	26,908	25,924	27,323	27,323	27,323	27,323	27,323	27,323
Operating Expenses	5020002	33,571	40,354	40,354	40,354	40,354	40,354	40,354	40,354	40,354
Conference & Travel Expenses	5050009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Professional Fees	5060010	20,521	39,012	39,012	39,012	39,012	39,012	39,012	39,012	39,012
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		173,395	185,520	179,100	185,935	185,935	185,935	185,935	185,935	185,935
Funding Sources										
Fund Balance	4000005	347,581	323,526		299,079	299,079	299,079	278,144	278,144	278,144
Cash Fund	4000045	149,340	161,073		165,000	165,000	165,000	165,000	165,000	165,000
Total Funding		496,921	484,599		464,079	464,079	464,079	443,144	443,144	443,144
Excess Appropriation/(Funding)		(323,526)	(299,079)		(278,144)	(278,144)	(278,144)	(257,209)	(257,209)	(257,209)
Grand Total		173,395	185,520		185,935	185,935	185,935	185,935	185,935	185,935

FY17 Budget amount in Regular Salaries and Personal Services Matching exceeds the authorized amount due to salary and matching rate adjustments during the 2015-2017 Biennium.