

Rhode Island Ethics Commission

FY 2018 Revised
FY 2019 Recommended
Staff Presentation
March 20, 2018

Background

- Prescription and publication of rules and regulations associated with state Code of Ethics
- Jurisdiction over three branches of state government and municipal and local government bodies
- Maintains all required filings made by elected and appointed officials
 - Including Financial Disclosure Statements

Summary by Category

<i>General Revenue</i>	Salaries/ Benefits	Contract. Services	Operations	Total
FY 2018 Enacted	\$1,457,159	32,001	176,713	\$1,665,873
FY 2018 Gov. Rev.	\$1,454,173	57,001	222,119	\$1,733,293
Change to Enacted	\$(2,986)	25,000	45,406	\$67,420
FY 2019 Gov. Rec.	\$1,491,090	57,001	222,469	\$1,770,560
Change to Enacted	\$33,931	25,000	45,756	\$104,687

Summary by Category- Excluding Centralized Services

<i>General Revenue</i>	Salaries/ Benefits	Contract. Services	Operations	Total
FY 2018 Enacted	\$1,457,159	32,001	176,713	\$1,665,873
FY 2018 Gov. Rev.	\$1,454,173	57,001	176,713	\$1,687,887
Change to Enacted	\$(2,986)	25,000	-	\$22,014
FY 2019 Gov. Rec.	\$1,491,090	57,001	176,713	\$1,724,804
Change to Enacted	\$33,931	25,000	-	\$58,931

Target Issues

- Budget Office provided a general revenue target of \$1.5 million
 - Current service adjustments of \$11,308
 - 10.0% target reduction of \$0.1 million
- Constrained request is consistent with the target
 - Achieved through staff reductions
 - Governor recommends \$254,463 more than target

Undistributed Savings

- FY 2018 enacted budget includes \$25.0 million of statewide savings
 - Undistributed in DOA's budget
- Governor's revised budget has proposals that total \$25.0 million
 - Not all repeat in FY 2019
- No savings assumed for the Ethics Commission

Centralized Services

- 2017 Assembly authorized establishment of internal service funds for centralized services
 - Information technology, capital asset management & maintenance, & HR
- Costs previously budgeted in DOA
 - Methodology on distribution needs review
 - Long term impacts and transparency concerns

Centralized Services

- Governor's budget allocates costs to user agencies

General Revenues	FY 2018	FY 2019
Information Technology	\$45,406	\$45,756

Staffing

FY 2019 Governor Recommendation		
	Ethics	Statewide
Gross Salaries (in millions)	\$0.9	\$1,117.1
Turnover (in millions)	-	(42.9)
Turnover %	-	3.8%
Turnover FTE	-	592.2
FY 2019 FTE recommended	12.0	15,426.5
Funded FTE	12.0	14,834.3
Filled as of March 3	11.0	13,889.2
Funded but not filled	1.0	945.1

Personnel

Full-Time Positions	FTEs	Change to Enacted
Enacted Authorized	12.0	-
FY 2018 Rev. Request	12.0	-
FY 2019 Request	12.0	-
FY 2019 Governor	12.0	-
FY 2017 Average Filled	11.8	(0.2)
Filled as of March 3rd	11.0	-

Personnel

FY 2018 Revised

- \$2,986 less than enacted
- Medical benefit savings

FY 2019 Recommended

- \$ 1,491,090
- \$33,931 more than enacted
- Benefit adjustments; slight wage growth due to step increases

Contracted Services

Contracts for legal, information technology & stenography services

FY 2018 Revised

- \$25,000 more than enacted for legal services

FY 2019 Recommended

- \$57,001; \$25,000 more than enacted
 - Consistent with revised recommendation

Operations

FY 2018 Revised and FY 2019: \$0.2 million

- Office space lease
 - Enacted amount of \$102,500
- Other operating expenses
 - Excluding centralized services, funding consistent with enacted \$74,213
 - \$3,342 of utility savings shifted to support increased records center and subscription costs

Expenditure History

Total	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
<i>Initial Request</i>	\$1,592,744	\$1,590,919	\$1,548,112	\$1,680,779
Enacted	1,577,204	\$1,581,205	\$1,664,876	\$1,653,383
<i>Revised Request</i>	\$1,582,966	\$1,623,695	\$1,644,842	\$1,638,851
Final	\$1,575,940	\$1,618,883	\$1,611,119	\$1,631,610
Actual	\$1,541,741	\$1,579,038	\$1,546,331	\$1,604,235
Difference	\$ (34,199)	(\$39,845)	(\$64,788)	(\$27,375)

Online Disclosure Filings

- Online financial disclosure filings began in 2012
 - Implemented for cost savings and greater efficiency

<i>(Filings for prior year)</i>	CY 2014	CY 2015	CY 2016	CY 2017
Online Filings	2,739	2,752	3,356	3,270
Total Filings	3,971	3,663	4,233	3,973
% Filed Online	68.9%	75.1%	79.3%	82.3%

Access to Public Records

- Public may request access to records
 - Financial statements, recusal forms, advisory opinions, request letters, and complaints

<i>FY 2017 Timeliness</i>	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Requests	96	33	23	65	217
Responses within 24 hrs	93	31	23	61	208
% Responses within 24hrs	96.9%	94.0%	100%	93.9%	95.9%

Annual Reporting Requirements

- Commission is required to prepare & publish an annual report by April 1
 - Report summarizes activities, including:
 - Number of disclosure statements filed
 - Subjects of advisory opinions requested & issued
 - Number of complaints filed, investigated or adjudicated
 - Currently being published

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