Ohio Sunset Review Committee
Agency Questionnaire

Agency Name State Fire Council

Point of Contact Abby Schafer, Legislative Director

Agency's primary purpose and its various goals and objectives

A principal responsibility of the State Fire Council is, upon a vacancy in the position, to conduct the first stage of the candidate selection process for the appointment of a State Fire Marshal. The second stage of the process results in the appointment of the State Fire Marshal by the Director of Commerce (R.C. 3737.21, Appointment, Qualifications of Fire Marshal-Vacancy).

In addition, per R.C. 3737.03 (Duties of the State Fire Council), states that the State Fire Council may do all of the following:

(A) Conduct research, make and publish reports on fire safety, and recommend to the governor, the general assembly, the board of building standards, and other state agencies, any needed changes in the laws, rules, or administrative policies relating to fire safety;

(B) Recommend revisions in the rules included in the state fire code adopted by the fire marshal;

(C) Maintain the Ohio fire service hall of fame.

Agency's past and anticipated workload, number of staff required to complete workload, and total number of staff

The council is required to meet at least once every two months and may meet at any other time at the call of the chair (R.C. 3737.81[D]). Special sessions may be called if there is a vacancy in the office of the State Fire Marshal.

The council has no permanent administrative or support staff. But, R.C. 3737.81(E) requires the State Fire Marshal to provide office space, meeting rooms, staff and clerical assistance for the council to perform its duties. Approximately 100 staff hours each year are dedicated to assisting the Committee.

Agency’s past and anticipated budgets and its sources of funding

There is no dedicated budget for the State Fire Council, and council activities are funded through the Division of State Fire Marshal's budget.

Number of members of its governing board or other governing entity and their compensation, if any

Ohio's fire service, two representatives of municipal governments, one member of the public and representatives from Ohio's petroleum, insurance, business and construction industries. Three additional members (the State Fire Marshal or Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal, a representative designated by the Department of Public Safety, and a representative designated by the Board of Building Standards) are ex-officio members.

Members of the council, except ex-officio members, are compensated a fixed amount according to R.C. 124.15(J) in addition to receiving actual and necessary expenses. While most waive their compensation, several are compensated at $159.44 per meeting.

Reimbursement for travel is available but has typically been waived by all members.

Total compensation in recent fiscal years has been:

2020 $609.72
2021 $600.00
2022 $0
2023 $124.92
2024 $80.57, year-to-date

Additional notes