

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS BOARD

MISSION

The Public Employment Relations Board resolves labor disputes between public employers and employees. The Board provides mediation, fact-finding and arbitration in contract disputes for approximately 4,760 negotiating units in New York State. In addition, the Board settles questions of union representation, conducts hearings on charges of improper practices, designates Management/Confidential positions, and acts as a clearinghouse for information on wages, benefits and employment practices.

ORGANIZATION AND STAFFING

The Board consists of a full-time Chair and two part-time members nominated by the Governor for six-year terms. The Board's jurisdiction includes State, county and local governments, certain special service districts, school districts and public authorities. Central offices are in Albany, with additional staff in Buffalo and Brooklyn.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The Executive Budget recommends **\$4.3 million All Funds (\$4 million General Fund, \$0.3 million Other Funds)** for the Public Employment Relations Board. This is an increase of **\$0.2 million General Fund** from the 2007-08 budget. This net change primarily reflects growth for inflation and normal personal service increases, offset by a reduction for management efficiencies.

The Executive Budget recommends a staffing level of **37 FTEs** for the Public Employment Relations Board, which is unchanged from 2007-08.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Board provides three principal services: conciliation, settlement of petitions involving representation and rulings on charges of improper practices.

CONCILIATION

The Board provided assistance in approximately 333 of the 2,327 State and local contracts negotiated in 2006-2007. The Board has followed many of these cases through the full range of impasse resolution steps: mediation, followed by either fact-finding or arbitration and conciliation.

REPRESENTATION

Through its Office of Public Employment Practices and Representation, the Board reviews all petitions from public employee unions and employers requesting the creation of new negotiating units or the transfer of members between units. It also reviews requests to remove positions from negotiating units and may designate them management or confidential. In 2006-2007, the Board received 117 petitions raising questions about representation and conducted eleven elections for representation.

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EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

The Board conducts hearings and renders decisions on improper practice charges, and received 807 charges of improper employment and negotiating practices in the previous year. In 2006-2007, the agency wrote 134 decisions and closed, either by decision or settlement, over 628 improper practice cases. Each case must be addressed in a pre-hearing conference attended by the affected parties. If a case cannot be resolved, a Board administrative law judge must rule on the charge after conducting a formal hearing. The Board also addresses matters of bargaining unit changes through unit clarification/placement and management/confidential applications. In 2006-2007, 83 such applications were received by the Board. During that year a total of 71 such cases were resolved; 44 after a conference was conducted and 27 by issuing a decision.

ALL FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Category	Available 2007-08	Appropriations Recommended 2008-09	Change	Reappropriations Recommended 2008-09
State Operations	4,143,000	4,298,000	155,000	0
Aid To Localities	0	0	0	0
Capital Projects	0	0	0	0
Total	4,143,000	4,298,000	155,000	0

ALL FUND TYPES PROJECTED LEVELS OF EMPLOYMENT BY PROGRAM FILLED ANNUAL SALARIED POSITIONS

Full-Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)

Program	2007-08 Estimated FTEs 03/31/08	2008-09 Estimated FTEs 03/31/09	FTE Change
Administration			
General Fund	37	37	0
Total	37	37	0

STATE OPERATIONS ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Fund Type	Available 2007-08	Recommended 2008-09	Change
General Fund	3,886,000	4,041,000	155,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	257,000	257,000	0
Total	4,143,000	4,298,000	155,000

STATE OPERATIONS ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Program	Available 2007-08	Recommended 2008-09	Change
Administration			
General Fund	3,886,000	4,041,000	155,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	257,000	257,000	0
Total	4,143,000	4,298,000	155,000

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STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND SUMMARY OF PERSONAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2008-09 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

Program	Total		Personal Service Regular (Annual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	3,471,000	117,000	3,113,000	112,000
Total	3,471,000	117,000	3,113,000	112,000

Program	Temporary Service (Nonannual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change
Administration	358,000	5,000
Total	358,000	5,000

STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND SUMMARY OF NONPERSONAL SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE UNDISTRIBUTED APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2008-09 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

Program	Total		Supplies and Materials	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	570,000	38,000	83,000	0
Total	570,000	38,000	83,000	0

Program	Travel		Contractual Services	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	72,000	0	363,000	(5,000)
Total	72,000	0	363,000	(5,000)

Program	Equipment	
	Amount	Change
Administration	52,000	43,000
Total	52,000	43,000

STATE OPERATIONS - OTHER THAN GENERAL FUND SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2008-09 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

Program	Total		Personal Service	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	257,000	0	140,000	0
Total	257,000	0	140,000	0

Program	Nonpersonal Service	
	Amount	Change
Administration	117,000	0
Total	117,000	0