

Consumer and Business Services

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	1999-2001 Actuals	2001-03 Legislatively Adopted at Close of Session	2001-03 Legislatively Approved through Fifth Special Session	2003-05 Governor's Balanced
General Fund	\$12,458,293	\$12,411,445	\$11,620,433	\$11,672,962
Lottery Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	243,128,504	247,675,125	257,444,205	274,881,893
Federal Funds	1,149,590	1,495,083	1,556,309	1,737,228
Other Funds (Nonlimited)	265,074,418	551,053,487	579,034,213	580,403,744
Federal Funds (Nonlimited)	0	0	0	0
Total Funds	\$521,810,805	\$812,635,140	\$849,655,160	\$868,695,827
Positions	1,670	1,614	1,614	1,587
Full-time Equivalent	1,629.89	1,588.90	1,587.13	1,562.79

Overview

Consumer and Business Services agencies work to protect consumers and workers. They also work to promote a positive business climate in the state. During the 2003-05 biennium, the Governor will focus agencies that target consumer and business issues on regulator streamlining and integration to insure a strong business climate, while

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maintaining long term worker safety and consumer safety. Fee increases are kept to a minimum. Those approved will maintain or enhance services supported by impacted constituents. Agencies will continue to evaluate services, systems and programs in this program area for better coordination and integration.

Agencies within the Consumer and Business Services Program Area include:

- The Department of Consumer and Business Services that protects the public in matters of workers' compensation, workplace safety, health care coverage, insurance, and financial services. It enforces state building codes. The agency helps disadvantaged-, women-, minority-owned firms, and emerging small businesses.
- The Bureau of Labor and Industries works to create a skilled workforce. It protects people's rights on issues of jobs, housing, public accommodation, and trade schools. It also provides training programs.
- The Public Utility Commission works to ensure that safe and reliable utility services are provided to consumers at just and reasonable rates through regulation and promoting the development of competitive markets. It does this by regulating investor-owned electricity and natural gas companies, as well as certain telephone and water companies.
- The regulatory boards protect customers of various professional services. These boards ensure that only qualified people are licensed or bonded. They set and ensure standards of conduct.

Balanced Budget

The Governor's balanced budget for the Consumer and Business Services program area agencies is \$868,695,827 total funds. This is two percent higher than the 2001-03 Legislatively Approved Budget through the Fifth Special Session. The budget:

- Increases fees for the Construction Contractors Board, Department of Consumer and Business Services' Building Codes Division, Board of Investigators, Board of Clinical Social Workers, Board of Chiropractic Examiners, Board of Pharmacy, State Mortuary and Cemetery Board, Board of Radiologic Technology, Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists, and the Board of Nursing. All fee increases were included after a thorough evaluation of the need for the fee increase, and with input and support from a large number of stakeholders. A number of agencies provided the stakeholders the option for reduced services or a fee increase.
- Reduces 21 positions in the Department of Consumer and Business Services' Building Codes Division, two positions in the Construction Contractors Board, and one position in the State Board of Tax Practitioners due to revenue shortfall projections, and to minimize any fee increase.
- Closes the Bureau of Labor and Industries' Medford office as of October 2003, and eliminates 10.88 full-time equivalent positions agency-wide due to General Fund constraints.
- Continues the Bureau and Labor Industries' state apprenticeship program. This program facilitates workforce development by providing apprenticeship opportunities for individuals, which allows them to acquire skills that lead to gainful employment in family wage jobs.

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- Increases Nonlimited expenditures for the Department of Consumer and Business Services due to increased referrals, enrollment, and claims in the Oregon Medical Insurance Pool.

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- Adds staffing and resources to address workload and enforcement activities for the Public Utility Commission, Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists, Oregon Board of Dentistry, Board of Radiologic Technology, Board of Medical Examiners, Board of Naturopathic Examiners, Occupation Therapy Licensing Board, Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, and Board of Pharmacy.
- Reclassifies positions upward due to enhanced job duties in the Public Utility Commission, Construction Contractors Board, State Board of Tax Practitioners, Board of Chiropractic Examiners, Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists, and Board of Pharmacy.
- Funds technological enhancements in the Construction Contractors Board, Board of Pharmacy, Oregon Board of Dentistry, Board of Radiologic Technology, Board of Medical Examiners, Health Licensing Office, Board of Nursing, and Real Estate Agency. The increased funding will enable these agencies to have their technology compatible with the rest of state government, and to serve their constituents better.
- Does not include the conversion of any state agency into a private or a semi-independent entity. However, agencies under the Consumer and Business Services program area will continue to be evaluated for administrative consistency, as well as for opportunities for privatization or for semi-independence.