

**FY 2010 BUDGET REDUCTIONS - SUMMARY OF ISSUES
 ARIZONA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY EXAMINERS
 ARIZONA BOARD OF ATHLETIC TRAINING**

ALL NON-GENERAL FUNDS

FY 2010 All Non-General Funds Budget (less Federal Funds) **247,000**

AGENCY REDUCTION TARGET - ALL NON-GENERAL FUNDS (w/o Federal Funds) \$37,050

Fund	Reductions Amount	Percent Reductions
Occupational Therapy Fund - 2263	\$18,500	49.9%
Occupational Therapy Fund - 2264	\$18,500	49.9%
Issue Total	\$37,000	

All Non-General Funds Total as a Percentage of Agency Non-GF Reduction Target 100%

**FY 2010 BUDGET REDUCTIONS - SUMMARY OF ISSUES
 ARIZONA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY EXAMINERS
 ARIZONA BOARD OF ATHLETIC TRAINING**

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY FUND

FY 2010 All Non-General Funds Budget (less Federal Funds) 247,000

AGENCY REDUCTION TARGET - ALL NON-GENERAL FUNDS (w/o Federal Funds) \$37,000

Priority	Issue Title¹	Reductions Amount
1	Reduction of Personal Services	<u>\$37,000</u>
	Issue Total	<u><u>\$37,000</u></u>
Fund Total as a Percentage of Non-General Fund Reduction Target		100%

¹ Please complete the attached Description and Impact Statement for each issue.

**STATE OF ARIZONA
FY 2010 BUDGET REDUCTIONS - ISSUE DESCRIPTIONS**

**Arizona Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners
Arizona Board of Athletic Training**

Issue Title: Reduction of Personal Services

Issue Priority: 1

Reduction Amounts:

Occupational therapy Fund (2263): \$18,500.00

Occupational Therapy Fund (2264): \$18,500.00

Total: \$37,000.00

Issue Description and Statement of Effects

A.R.S. § 32-3401 ET. Seq. provides for the establishment of the Arizona Board of Occupational Examiners to include the establishment of rules, hiring of staff and licensing of this profession.

A.R.S. §32-4101 ET. Seq. provides for the establishment of the Arizona Board of Athletic Training including the establishment of rules, the utilization of staff hired by the Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners and the licensing of this profession.

The problem faced by small boards in such times of financial difficulty is that the preponderance of their expenditures is found in the payment of staff. Approximately 84% of the appropriation is utilized to pay staff with the remaining utilized for such expenditures as rent, phones, websites, postage, and supplies. Of these expenditures rent, phones and website are fixed and must be paid for these necessary services to be provided.

It is only recently that the Boards have been able to secure full staffing which has enabled them to assure office coverage as well as provide vital services to the individuals they license and timely response to questions and problems posed by consumers of those services. To reduce staffing would be a reversal in the progress being made and a disservice to the customers of the Boards.

Reduction in the number of personnel would result in the reduction of services to individuals, both licensees and general public. Response time to both electronic (email) and personal (telephone and walk-in) would diminish. Additionally the processing of time-sensitive documents would be jeopardized.

October 9, 2009

Of paramount importance to these two boards and the individuals they serve is the timeliness of processing of documents. There are two distinct documents involved, initial and renewal licenses. Without the timely processing of these documents there is a marked impact on the financial livelihood of the individuals as the statutes clearly state that individuals may not practice in either profession without a current license. Therefore, for the board staff to be hampered from processing license applications and the issuance of the licenses themselves may result in the inability of individuals to pursue their occupation. In these days of financial hardship this is an unthinkable condition for the boards to be facing. Without sufficient staff, there is a very real possibility that the remaining staff will find themselves in the unfortunate situation of not being able to process documents timely.

These boards are also facing a move into state owned space which will provide an additional draw on their appropriation and available funds. The boards have submitted a supplemental appropriation request to cover the move, associated onetime costs, and an appropriations adjustment for FY2011 to cover the additional rent that this action will create. Although there is sufficient revenue to cover these costs, a reduction in appropriation negates the ability to access that revenue and continue to function.

Of additional concern is the protection of the public. One of the critical functions of these boards is the review, investigation and resolution of complaints filed against licensees. Many of the licensees served by both boards work directly with children who are the innocents of society. It is paramount that all efforts are made to protect children and see that everything possible is done to preserve and improve their physical, mental and emotional health allowing them to grow into healthy, productive adults. There are also the elderly that receive services who may be past their working lives, but need services to continue to have the highest quality of life and the ability to achieve the highest level of independence as possible as they continue to move through their golden years. Regarding the group that falls in between these two groups there is a similar concern. Accidents, illness and work related injury can affect anyone at any time. To maintain the health of these individuals and/or assist in their recovery from accidents, illness and work related injury returns them to the productive lives they have come to know. Whether the licensees of these boards provide service to individuals who provide us pleasure through sports activities, service through the jobs they perform, or love through personal relationship they all deserve the highest level of professionalism and training available. Through the oversight of these professions, the boards assure, to the extent possible, that the lifestyles of individuals receiving services from licensees continue.

These boards are 90/10 and therefore, do not draw funds from the general fund. On the contrary, as 90/10 agencies, they contribute toward the solvency of the general fund. To reduce their appropriations not only opens the door to the reduction of needed services to licensees and the public, but can also result in the question as to

whether the fees they are charging are at the correct level. Should the licensees question this, as did happen during last year's sweep of the fund, there may be an attempt to reduce the fees which would not only negatively affect the ability of the boards to function but would reduce the funds provided to the general fund.

In summary, given that these boards are self-funded through the licensee fees they charge, that the current fee schedule is sufficient to meet the needs of the boards and that these Boards contribute 10% of their revenue to the general fund, they respectfully request that there not be a reduction to their appropriation.

DRAFT