



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

**Board of Examiners For  
Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology**  
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## **SB 5523: 2017-19 Governor’s Budget Highlights**

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**Mission:** To protect the public through the regulation of the practice of Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs), Speech-Language Pathology assistants (SLPAs) and Audiologists in Oregon. These professionals serve vulnerable children, adults, and seniors, including those with multiple disabilities and following stroke or traumatic brain injury in both medical and educational settings.

### **Key Budget Drivers:**

- Increased volume of licensees (as of January 2017, record high of 2,769 licensees, up 14.9% from 2015).
- Increased volume of cases (under 20/year until 2008, 63 in calendar year 2016).
- DOJ costs on flat fee schedule, but always a risk given a major case currently in judicial review, etc.

### **Budget Summary:**

- Agency is supported 100% by Other Funds; 98% of revenue is licensing fees, less than 1% is civil penalties and about 1% is interest income.
- GB total expenditures \$688,032, a 1.2% increase from 15-17 LAB.
- Actual revenue for 2015-17 is exceeding LAB.
- 2015-17 Ending Balance in GB is \$209,323 which is sufficient cash for 7 months of operations.
- No changes in fees requested/required for 17-19 and most likely none required in 19-21.

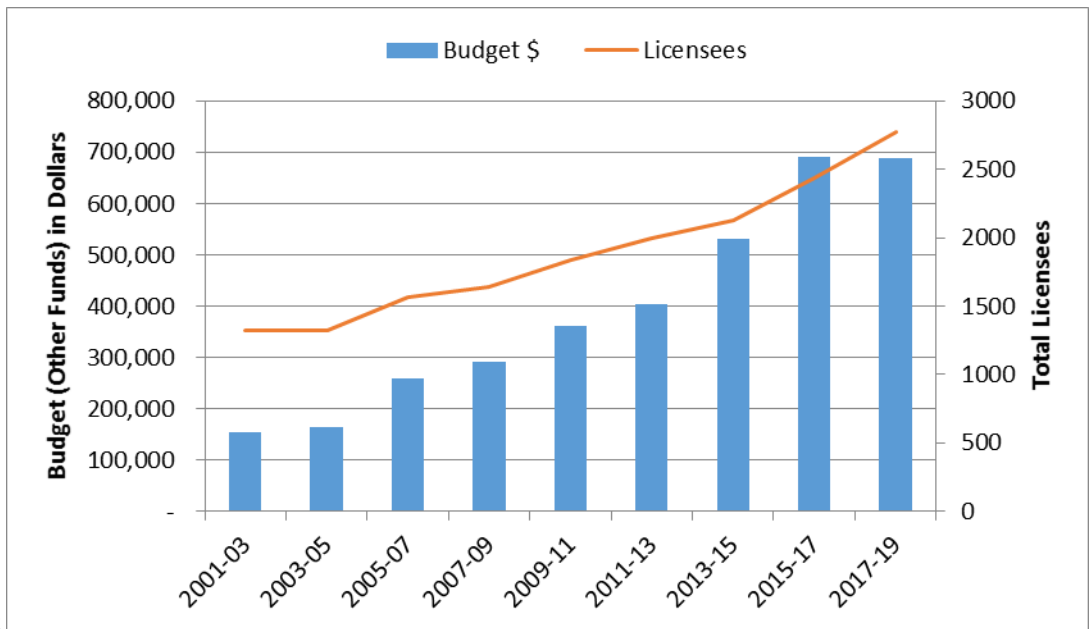
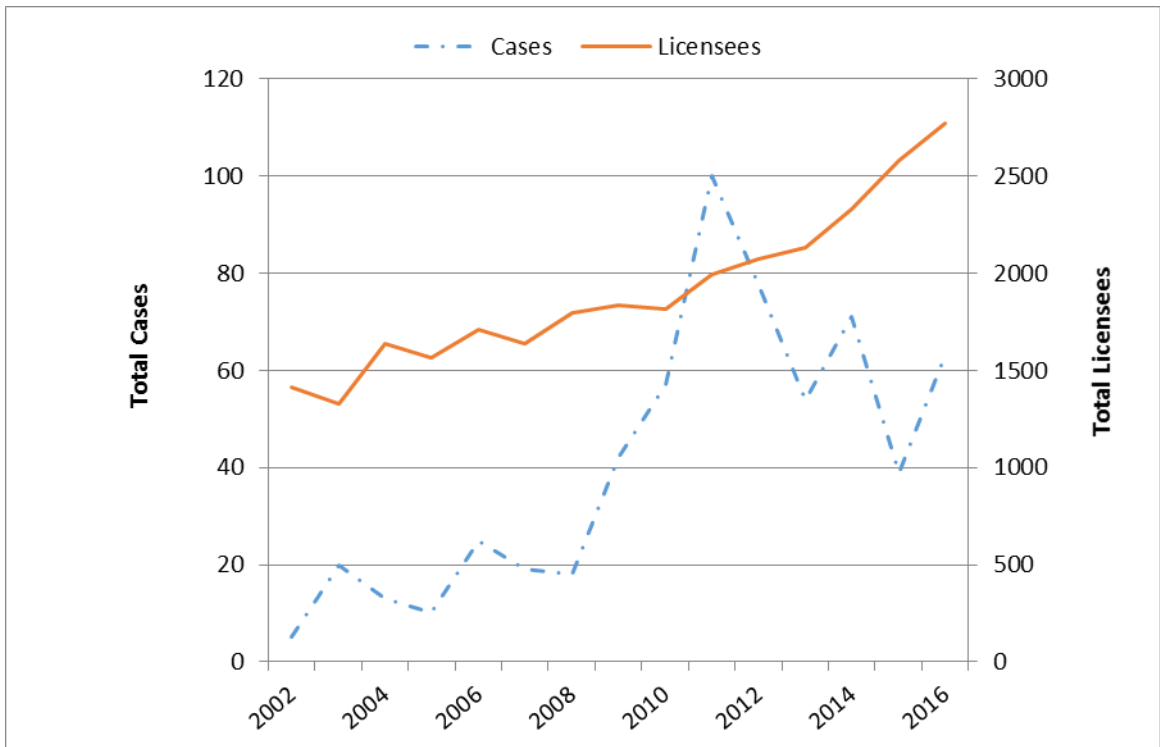
### **Emerging Issues and Environmental Factors:**

- Possible national licensure compact on horizon, similar to Physical Therapy compact approved by Legislature in 2016.
- Telepractice as a way to deal with shortages of SLPs in both educational and healthcare settings. New statutes/rules are needed as the only law on the books currently is about “treatment via correspondence.”
- Audiology Assistants – possible new future licensure category.
- Better systems of supervising SLPAs and ensuring appropriate use of these paraprofessionals in educational settings.

### **2015-17 Key Accomplishments:**

- Implementation of FBI fingerprint background checks, June, 2015.
- Implementation of universal licensure – as of July 1, 2016 – the exemption for SLPs working in the schools under a TSPC license was removed. Those who had that license may continue under grandfathering as long as they keep their license current.
- Launched new “Oregon look and feel” website, February, 2017.
- Smooth transition to new Executive Director, February 1, 2015.
- Successful transition to shared in-house accountant with five sister agencies

Investigations	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
New	22	6	11	18	16	41	57	100	78	54	49	39	63
Closed	20	6	3	9	10	38	49	96	74	34	13	39	65
Backlog from Previous Year	3	3	4	8	6	3	15	8	12	16	19	24	7



**Total Budget**

**Staff (FTE 2.0, .5 unfilled)**