



## Ohio Revised Code

### Section 5119.25 Withholding of funds for failure to comply with statutory or regulatory provisions.

Effective: September 30, 2025

Legislation: House Bill 96 (GA 136), Senate Bill 138 (GA 136)

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(A) The director of behavioral health may withhold funds, in whole or in part, that otherwise are to be allocated to a board of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services under section 5119.23 of the Revised Code if either of the following circumstances apply:

- (1) The board fails to comply with Chapter 340. or 5119. of the Revised Code or rules of the department of behavioral health;
- (2) The board denies available service on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, military status, sex, age, national origin, disability as defined in section 4112.01 of the Revised Code, or developmental disability.

(B) The director shall withhold funds, in whole or in part, that otherwise are to be allocated to a board under section 5119.23 of the Revised Code if either of the following circumstances apply:

- (1) The director, under division (H) of section 5119.22 of the Revised Code, disapproves all or part of the board's proposed community addiction and mental health plan, budget, or list of addiction services, mental health services, and recovery supports;
- (2) The board's use of state and federal funds fails to comply with the board's approved budget, including approved amendments to the budget.

(C) The director shall issue a notice identifying the areas of noncompliance and the action necessary to achieve compliance. The director may offer technical assistance to the board to achieve compliance. The board shall have thirty days from receipt of the notice of noncompliance to present its position that it is in compliance or to submit to the director evidence of corrective action the board took to achieve compliance. Before withholding funds, the director or the director's designee shall hold a hearing within thirty days of receipt of the board's position or evidence to determine if there



are continuing violations and that either assistance is rejected or the board is unable, or has failed, to achieve compliance. The director may appoint a representative from another board of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services to serve as a mentor for the board in developing and executing a plan of corrective action to achieve compliance. Any such representative shall be from a board that is in compliance with Chapter 340. of the Revised Code, this chapter, and the department's rules. Subsequent to the hearing process, if it is determined that compliance has not been achieved, the director may allocate all or part of the withheld funds to one or more community mental health services providers or community addiction services providers to provide the mental health service, addiction service, or recovery support for which the board is not in compliance until the time that there is compliance.

(D) The director shall adopt rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to implement this section.

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*The Legislative Service Commission presents the text of this section as a composite of the section as amended by multiple acts of the General Assembly. This presentation recognizes the principle stated in R.C. 1.52(B) that amendments are to be harmonized if reasonably capable of simultaneous operation.*