



www.lsc.ohio.gov

OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

H.B. 173
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Click and Pavliga

Emma Carroll, Research Analyst

SUMMARY

- Creates the Ohio Family Stability Commission in the Department of Job and Family Services to consider information that may have an effect on family stability, recommend legislation or rules to advance policies that address those issues, and monitor related legislation and rulemaking processes.
- Requires the Commission to submit to the Governor and General Assembly a report detailing its recommendations.
- Requires the Department of Job and Family Services to provide staffing assistance to the Commission.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Ohio Family Stability Commission

The bill creates the Ohio Family Stability Commission in the Department of Job and Family Services. The Commission is responsible for evaluating information that relates to family stability and using that information to recommend legislation to the General Assembly or rules to state agencies that would address family stability.¹ The Commission is also responsible for monitoring legislation and rulemaking processes related to family stability.²

Membership

The Ohio Family Stability Commission is to consist of the following 9 to 16 members:

¹ R.C. 5101.39(A).

² R.C. 5101.39(F).

- Three members of the Ohio Senate, including at least one from a different party than the Senate President, appointed by the Senate President;
- Three members of the Ohio House of Representatives, including at least one from a different party than the House Speaker, appointed by the House Speaker;
- At least three but not more than five members appointed by the Governor;
- Not more than three private citizens who have experience or knowledge on issues of concern to the Commission, appointed by the chair of the Commission with the vice-chair's consent;
- Not more than two private citizens who have experience or knowledge on issues of concern to the Commission, appointed by the vice-chair of the Commission with the chair's consent.

Each odd-numbered year, the House Speaker must select a member of the Commission from the House to serve as chair of the Commission, and the Senate President must select a member of the Commission from the Senate to serve as vice-chair. Each even-numbered year this is reversed, and the Senate President must select a chair while the House Speaker must select a vice-chair.

Terms for Commission members begin upon appointment and continue until the end of December in the second year of the General Assembly during which the member was appointed. They serve at the pleasure of their appointing authorities. Vacancies are filled in the same manner as initial appointments.³

Members of the Commission who are members of the General Assembly, government agency representatives, or appointed or elected officials serve without compensation. Private citizens are compensated at an amount determined by the Director of Administrative Services according to wage schedules for state employees exempted from collective bargaining law. All members must be reimbursed for expenses incurred while performing Commission duties.⁴

Report

Within one year of the bill's effective date, and biennially thereafter, the Ohio Family Stability Commission is responsible for submitting a report to the General Assembly and the Governor detailing legislative, regulatory, and any other recommendations for improving family stability. The Commission's recommendations must, at minimum, address the following:

- Strategies for reducing the divorce rate in Ohio;
- Strategies for reducing extramarital conceptions, abortions, and births;
- Strategies for reducing the domestic violence rate;
- Strategies for reducing the child abuse rate;

³ R.C. 5101.39(B).

⁴ R.C. 5101.39(C); R.C. 124.15(J) and 124.152, not in the bill.

- Issues concerning child custody and child support;
- Issues that discourage or prevent couples from getting married;
- Issues concerning the effect of substance abuse and addiction on family stability.

The report must describe both the recommendations and the information considered that informed the recommendations.⁵

Staffing assistance

The Department of Job and Family Services is responsible for providing staffing assistance to the Ohio Family Stability Commission. This does not require the Department to hire additional staff that would otherwise not be employed by the Department.⁶

Note on existing Ohio Family Stability Commission

In 2017, the 131st General Assembly created an Ohio Family Stability Commission by enacting S.B. 30.⁷ It was comprised of four legislative members and 21 other members appointed by the Governor and had similar, but not identical, duties to the Commission created in this bill. While legislative members were appointed to the Commission, it does not appear that the Governor ever made appointments, and the Commission never met. Its enabling statute is set to expire in April 2021.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	03-03-21

H0173-I-134/ks

⁵ R.C. 5101.39(E).

⁶ R.C. 5101.39(D).

⁷ R.C. 5101.345, not in the bill.