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H.B. 428*
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: Reported by House Behavioral Health & Recovery Supports

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Pavliga and Edwards

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SUMMARY

- Establishes the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study Commission.
- Requires the Study Commission to (1) gather data on adverse childhood experiences, (2) study the effects of adverse childhood experiences, and (3) recommend legislative strategies to the General Assembly for addressing the prevalence and effects of adverse childhood experiences.
- Requires the Study Commission to submit an annual report on its findings and recommendations for possible legislation.
- Provides that the Study Commission ends after submitting its fourth annual report.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Adverse Childhood Experiences Study Commission

The bill establishes the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study Commission, which is tasked with all of the following:

1. Gathering data on adverse childhood experiences;
2. Studying the effects of adverse childhood experiences; and
3. Recommending legislative strategies to the General Assembly for addressing the prevalence and effects of adverse childhood experiences.

* This analysis was prepared before the report of the House Behavioral Health and Recovery Supports Committee appeared in the House Journal. Note that the legislative history may be incomplete.

Under the bill, adverse childhood experiences are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood. They can include various forms of physical and emotional abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction.¹

Membership and appointment procedures

The Study Commission consists of 16 members. The following members are to be appointed by the Governor:

- One social worker or school counselor who has worked with children experiencing violence, abuse, and neglect;
- One current or former law enforcement officer with experience in community violence;
- One representative from an organization that serves adult suicide survivors;
- One individual who has earned a doctoral degree in a social science field who is an expert on child suicide and is employed as a professor or researcher;
- One current or former judge of a municipal or common pleas court;
- One psychologist;
- One psychologist who has experience treating chemical dependency and substance abuse;
- One physician;
- One individual who has earned a doctoral degree in a social science field who is an expert on family dynamics and is employed as a professor or researcher;
- One representative of the Department of Job and Family Services;
- One certified crisis intervention specialist; and
- One representative from the Children's Trust Fund.

The remaining members include: two members from the Senate (one from each party), both appointed by the Senate President, and two members from the House of Representatives (one from each party), both appointed by the Speaker of the House.²

The bill requires initial appointments to the Study Commission to be made within 60 days of the bill's effective date. Thereafter, appointments are to be made within 30 days of a vacancy. With each new General Assembly, the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House must make new appointments to the Study Commission.³

¹ R.C. 103.55(A) and (B).

² R.C. 103.55(B).

³ R.C. 103.55(D).

Meetings and operation

The Study Commission annually must select from among its members a chairperson and a vice-chairperson, by majority vote, as follows:

- In odd-numbered years, the chairperson must be a Study Commission member from the Senate and the vice-chairperson must be a Study Commission member from the House of Representatives.
- In even numbered years, the chairperson must be a Study Commission member from the House of Representatives and the vice-chairperson must be a Study Commission member from the Senate.⁴

Members serve without compensation, except to the extent that serving on the Study Commission is considered part of the member's regular duties of employment. A member can be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of the member's official Study Commission duties.⁵

A majority of members constitutes a quorum to conduct Study Commission meetings. The bill requires the Study Commission to (1) comply with Ohio's open meetings and public records laws and (2) abide by the House of Representatives and Senate rules that pertain to decorum. Finally, the bill requires the General Assembly to provide meeting space, staff services, and other technical assistance to the Study Commission.⁶

The bill requires the Study Commission to hold its first meeting within 60 days after initial appointments are made. Thereafter, the Study Commission must meet once quarterly. The first meeting each year must be an organizational meeting to elect the chairperson and vice-chairperson and to set a calendar for the rest of the year. During one meeting each year, each member appointed by the Governor must present to the Study Committee information relevant to the member's area of experience, including suggestions for legislative approaches to address the prevalence and effects of adverse childhood experiences.⁷

Annual reports

The bill requires the Study Commission to prepare an annual report summarizing:

1. Information and data it collects regarding the prevalence and effects of adverse childhood experiences; and
2. Possible legislative strategies for addressing the prevalence and effects of adverse childhood experiences.

⁴ R.C. 103.55(E).

⁵ R.C. 103.55(F).

⁶ R.C. 103.55(G), (H), and (I).

⁷ R.C. 103.551.

The Study Commission must submit a copy of each report to the General Assembly. The first report must be submitted within one year of the bill’s effective date and subsequent reports are due annually thereafter. The Study Commission ends after submitting its fourth annual report.⁸

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	09-20-21
Reported, H. Behavioral Health and Recovery Supports	---

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⁸ R.C. 103.552.