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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Synopsis of Senate Committee Amendments

(This synopsis does not address amendments that may have been adopted on the Senate Floor.)

H.B. 397 of the 134th General Assembly

Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources

Carla Napolitano, Attorney, and other LSC staff

Investing in Ohio Fund

- Creates the Investing in Ohio Fund, to promote economic development throughout Ohio.
- Appropriates \$85 million in FY 2022 to the new fund.

Oil and gas unit operation timelines

- Establishes timelines within which the Chief of the Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management must hold a hearing on an application for unit operation and issue the unit operation order.

Ohio Public Works Commission

- Makes various changes to the law governing the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC), including:
 - Removing the requirement that the private sector voting member of the OPWC with public finance experience have eight years of experience in public finance prior to appointment;
 - Clarifying that a quorum for the OPWC is four voting members instead of four members; and
 - Removing obsolete language requiring the OPWC to administer the now defunct Small Counties Capital Improvement Program.
- Makes various changes to the law governing grants awarded by natural resources assistance councils to eligible entities for specified natural resources projects, including:
 - Requiring a nonprofit organization that wishes to receive grant funding to be an environmental and conservation organization and formed to protect the natural environment in addition to being exempt from federal income taxation;

- Clarifying that money may be awarded to an eligible conservation open space acquisition project for open space improvements, rather than open space developments as in current law;
- Eliminating the restrictions against funding hydromodification projects, such as dams, dredging, and sedimentation; and
- Specifying that technical assistance provided by the OPWC to natural resources assistance councils does not constitute approval or denial of a grant application.

Battery-charged fences

- Makes an exemption to the law regarding battery-charged fences for certain fences used for agricultural purposes.

Fairfield County land conveyance

- Authorizes the conveyance of state-owned land to the board of commissioners of Fairfield County at a price acceptable to the Director of Administrative Services and the Ohio University Board of Trustees.