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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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H.B. 304
135th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Hall and M. Miller

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SUMMARY

- Creates the State and Municipal Government Commission.
- Requires the Commission to make recommendations to state and municipal leaders on municipal authority, policy, and funding implications of proposed state policies.
- Requires the Commission to submit a biennial report to the General Assembly.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

State and Municipal Government Commission

The bill creates the State and Municipal Government Commission, specifies its membership, and prescribes its duties. The Commission has permissive authority to appoint an executive director housed within the Department of Development. The Commission will submit a biennial report to the General Assembly. More details are provided below.

Membership

The Commission consists of the following 13 members:

- The Director of Development or the Director's designee (serves as chairperson);
- Four members appointed by the Governor:
 - Two mayors, or their designees, of municipal corporations in Ohio with populations of 60,000 or more;
 - Two mayors, or their designees, of municipal corporations in Ohio with populations of less than 60,000.
- Two members appointed by the Senate President:
 - One member of the General Assembly;
 - One mayor, municipal executive, or charter county executive.

- Two members appointed by the Senate Minority Leader:
 - One member of the General Assembly;
 - One mayor, municipal executive, or charter county executive.
- Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House:
 - One member of the General Assembly;
 - One mayor, municipal executive, or charter county executive.
- Two members appointed by the House Minority Leader:
 - One member of the General Assembly;
 - One mayor, municipal executive, or charter county executive.

Initial appointments must be made by June 30, 2023. Members serve two-year terms beginning on January 30 each odd-numbered year. Any vacancy that occurs is filled in the same manner as the original appointment. General Assembly members serve on the Commission only while serving in the General Assembly. Members do not receive compensation; actual and necessary expenses are reimbursed. Finally, the bill specifies membership on the Commission does not constitute holding another public office.

Duties

The Commission is required to do all of the following:

- Meet at least twice a year upon ten days' written notice provided by the chairperson;
- Analyze and report on proposed state and municipal policies and rules that would impact municipal home rule authority;¹
- Enhance collaborative opportunities between state and municipal leaders;
- Make recommendations to state and municipal leaders on municipal authority, policy, and funding implications of proposed state policies;
- Discuss and consider state and municipal government revenue sharing, grant programs, and other matters related to the fiscal health of municipal corporations;
- Submit a biennial report to the General Assembly.

Meetings

A majority of members constitutes a quorum at meetings, and the Commission is subject to Ohio's Open Meetings Act.² The Ohio Government Telecommunications Service,

¹ Ohio Constitution, Article XVIII, Section 3.

² R.C. 121.22, not in the bill.

which operates Ohio Channel, is required to broadcast all meetings of the Commission. The bill allows the Commission to have experts or other parties testify at meetings.

Report

The Commission's biennial report must be submitted by January 29 of each odd-numbered year and must include the following information:

- A summary of the Commission's recommendation, along with subsequent actions taken or not taken by the General Assembly and municipal governments, as appropriate;
- A summary of legislation passed by the General Assembly restricting or limiting home rule authority and any reported impacts on municipal law or policies;
- Recommendations for the next General Assembly to preserve and restore home rule authority and municipal authority.

This report, and any recommendations the Commission provides at other times, cannot be issued without the approval of all of the following:

- A simple majority of total members;
- Two members from each political party;
- Two members who are members of the General Assembly;
- Two members who are a mayor, a mayor's designee, a municipal executive, or a charter county executive.

Executive director

The bill allows the Commission to hire and supervise an executive director to administer the Commission's duties. The executive director will be located in the Department of Development.³

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	10-18-23

ANHB0304IN-135/ks

³ R.C. 701.11 and Section 2.