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H.B. 352
135th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Reported by House Behavioral Health

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Baker and Carruthers

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SUMMARY

- Establishes the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study Commission.
- Requires the Study Commission to 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 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 recommending legislative strategies to the General Assembly for addressing the prevalence and effects of adverse childhood experiences.

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, environmental, or community dysfunction.¹

¹ R.C. 103.55(A) and (B).

Membership and appointment procedures

The Study Commission consists of 26 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 or domestic violence;
- One current or former judge who presides or presided over domestic relations or juvenile proceedings;
- One psychologist;
- One pediatrician;
- Two individuals who have earned a doctoral degree in a social science field, are experts on adverse childhood experiences, and are employed as a professor or researcher;
- One representative of the Department of Children and Youth;
- One certified crisis intervention specialist;
- One representative from the Children's Trust Fund;
- One clinician who works in a residential facility that serves children with behavioral health needs and has experience in trauma-informed care;
- Two individuals with lived experience in adverse childhood experiences or parents of such an individual;
- One representative of the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners or a successor organization;
- One representative of the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities or a successor organization;
- One mental health professional who serves infants or children up to five years of age; and
- One representative of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services;
- One representative of the Ohio School Psychologists Association;
- One representative of the Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers;
- One representative of the Public Children Services Association of Ohio;
- One representative of the Department of Medicaid;
- One representative of a Medicaid managed care organization.

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. Subsequent 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

Meetings and operation

The Study Commission must annually 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.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. After that, 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

² R.C. 103.55(C).

³ R.C. 103.55(D).

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.

Annual reports

The bill requires the Study Commission to prepare an annual report summarizing possible legislative strategies for addressing the prevalence and effects of adverse childhood experiences.

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	12-04-23
Reported, H. Behavioral Health	05-08-24

ANHB0352RH-135/ts

⁸ R.C. 103.552.