



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Alyssa Bethel

H.B. 66

131st General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Barnes, Brenner, Patmon, Reece

BILL SUMMARY

- Creates the Veteran and Disabled Ohioan Technology Council and requires the Council to study and report methods to improve accommodations for individuals with disabilities through technology.
- Creates the Technology Assistance Fund to improve accommodations for individuals with disabilities through technology.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Veteran and Disabled Ohioan Technology Council

The bill creates the Veteran and Disabled Ohioan Technology Council within the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency. The nine-member Council must study and determine methods to improve accommodations for individuals with disabilities through technology. Annually, the Council must prepare a report summarizing the Council's findings and submit the report to the Governor. The initial report must be submitted one year after the bill's effective date.¹

Rulemaking and staff

The Council may adopt rules as necessary for conducting its business. The Executive Director of the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency must assign one professional staff person to serve as Executive Secretary of the Council. The Executive Director may assign other personnel as determined advisable.²

¹ R.C. 3304.55(B).

² R.C. 3304.55(C).

Membership

The Council consists of nine members to be appointed by the Governor not later than 90 days after the bill's effective date. The members are:

- Three representatives of businesses engaged in the field of technology;
- Three representatives of state institutions of higher education;
- Three representatives of the blind community.³

Initial membership terms are one, two, and three years after the bill's effective date. Each of the three membership groups must have one member with an initial term ending one, two, and three years after the bill's effective date, respectively. Thereafter, members are appointed to three-year terms that end on the same day of the same month as the term that succeeded it.

Each member holds office from the date appointed until the end of the term for which the member was appointed. Members continue in office after expiration of the member's term until a successor takes office or for 60 days, whichever occurs first. Members may be reappointed to one additional term. Members appointed to fill a vacancy in an unexpired term hold office for the remainder of the term.

Members are not paid for service on the Council, but are compensated for actual and necessary expenses incurred in performing their duties. Each year, the Governor must appoint a chairperson from among the members of the Council. The Governor may appoint the chairperson to serve one additional term as chairperson. The Council must meet at least six times per year at times and places designated by the chairperson.⁴

Technology Assistance Fund

The bill creates the Technology Assistance Fund to improve accommodations for individuals with disabilities through technology. The fund is administered by the Executive Director of the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency, and consists of donations, gifts, and contributions from businesses and any appropriations made to the fund.⁵

³ R.C. 3304.55(D).

⁴ R.C. 3304.55(E).

⁵ R.C. 3304.55(F).



HISTORY

ACTION

DATE

Introduced

02-17-15

H0066-I-131.docx/emr

