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S.B. 30
133rd General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Reported by House State and Local Government*

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Kunze and Williams

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SUMMARY

- Creates the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission in recognition of the 100th anniversaries of the proposal and ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees women the right to vote.
- Requires the Commission to plan and carry out events and activities throughout Ohio during 2019 and 2020 to honor the women's suffrage movement and to raise awareness of, and educate the public about, the importance and historical significance of the Nineteenth Amendment.
- Prescribes the membership of the Commission, including the Secretary of State or the Secretary's designee, legislative and political party appointees, and others.
- Creates a fund for the Commission and allows the Commission to solicit grants, gifts, and donations.
- Specifies that the Commission ceases to exist on December 31, 2020.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission

The bill creates the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission, which must plan and carry out events and activities throughout Ohio during 2019 and 2020 in recognition of the 100th anniversaries of the following events:

* This analysis was prepared before the report of the House State and Local Government Committee appeared in the House Journal. Note that the legislative history may be incomplete.

- Congress’s proposal of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees women the right to vote, on June 4, 1919;
- The Ohio General Assembly’s ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment on June 16, 1919; and
- The 36th state ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment by the Tennessee General Assembly on August 18, 1920, which finally approved the amendment.

The Commission’s events and activities must honor the women’s suffrage movement and must raise awareness of, and educate the public about, the importance and historical significance of the Nineteenth Amendment.¹

Membership

Under the bill, the Women’s Suffrage Centennial Commission consists of the following members:

- The Secretary of State or the Secretary’s designee, who must serve as the Commission’s chairperson;
- Two members of the Senate appointed by the Senate President, who must not be members of the same political party;
- Two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, who must not be members of the same political party;
- One member of the Ohio Republican Party appointed by the chairperson of the Party;
- One member of the Ohio Democratic Party appointed by the chairperson of the Party;
- Any additional members appointed by the Secretary of State in order to assist the Commission in fulfilling its duties.

The members’ terms of office end on December 31, 2020, except that a member of the General Assembly appointed to the Commission is a Commission member only so long as the member remains in office. Vacancies on the Commission must be filled in the manner prescribed for making the original appointment.

The bill requires Commission members to serve without compensation or reimbursement for expenses. The Secretary of State must provide any necessary equipment and facilities and assign any necessary professional, technical, or clerical employees of the Secretary to assist the Commission in fulfilling its duties.²

¹ Section 1(C) of the bill.

² Section 1(A) and (B) of the bill.

Fund

The bill creates the Women’s Suffrage Centennial Commission Fund in the state treasury for the Commission to use in carrying out its duties under the bill. The Fund consists of any moneys appropriated or donated to it and any interest earned on the moneys in the Fund. The Commission may solicit and accept grants, gifts, or donations from any lawful source and must deposit them in the Fund.³

Expiration of Commission

Under the bill, the Women’s Suffrage Centennial Commission ceases to exist on December 31, 2020. On that date, any unencumbered, unobligated balance remaining in the Commission Fund must be deposited in the General Revenue Fund. When no moneys remain in the Fund, it ceases to exist.⁴

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-12-19
Reported, S. Gov’t Oversight & Reform	02-26-19
Passed Senate (32-0)	02-26-19
Reported, H. State & Local Gov’t	---

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³ Section 1(D) of the bill.

⁴ Section 1(E) of the bill.