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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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S.B. 67
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Williams

Allison Schoeppner, Research Associate

SUMMARY

- Establishes a committee to study the progress and challenges African Americans face in Ohio and requires it to submit an initial report of its findings by December 31, 2021, and a final report by October 31, 2022, to the General Assembly and news media outlets.
- Makes an appropriation.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Committee to study African Americans in Ohio

The bill establishes a committee, in recognition of the 400th anniversary of African Americans in Ohio and the United States, to study the progress and challenges that African Americans face in Ohio. As part of this study, the committee must review various reports regarding African Americans in Ohio, including the Report of the Ohio Commission on Racial Fairness, the Governor's Task Force Report on Black and Minority Health, and any other reports prepared in Ohio that the committee determines are relevant.

Reporting requirements

After completing its review, the committee must prepare an initial report on the following:

1. The progress or lack of progress for African Americans in Ohio regarding housing, transportation, health, education, employment, environment, business development, and other policy areas the committee chooses to consider;
2. The contributions and achievements by African Americans in Ohio; and
3. Recommendations for addressing any challenges identified by the committee.

The initial report must be submitted by December 31, 2021, to the General Assembly and news media outlets and must include the schedule for upcoming public hearings (see below).

Public hearings

Not earlier than three months after submitting its initial report, the committee must reconvene to hold public hearings in various parts of the state regarding its findings in the initial report. The committee determines how many hearings to hold, the schedule, and location of the meetings, however, the bill requires that they be held over a period of time that does not exceed four months.

Final report

Upon completion of the hearings, the committee must revise its initial report based on any information gathered during the hearings and submit its final report by October 31, 2022, to the General Assembly and also news media outlets. Upon submission of the final report the committee is abolished.

Committee members

The bill specifies that the committee consist of 30 members: ten appointed by the Governor and five members each appointed by the Senate President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the minority leaders of the Senate and the House.

It also specifies that members must be representatives of the following entities:

1. The Ohio History Connection;
2. The National Museum of Afro-American History and Culture;
3. The Ohio Civil Rights Commission; and
4. Public and private research institutions in Ohio, including the John Glenn College of Public Affairs and the Kirwan Institution for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at the Ohio State University, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland State University, and the Health Policy Institute of Ohio.

The bill requires the committee to select, through an application process, a research institute to provide staff support to the committee.

The committee is also permitted to establish subcommittees as it sees fit and may appoint additional members who are not members of the original committee.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-17-21