



# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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## Bill Analysis

Cody Weisbrodt

### **H.B. 539**

131st General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

Rep. Boyce

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## **BILL SUMMARY**

- Creates the "Office for New Americans" in the Governor's executive cabinet.
  - Defines "new American" as a person residing in Ohio who is not a United States citizen or United States national.
  - Creates the position of Director of the Governor's Office for New Americans, to be designated by the Governor.
  - Requires the Director to increase access to English for speakers of other languages training (ESOL), provide resources on the naturalization process, connect new Americans to workforce development programs, and strive to reduce exploitation of new Americans.
  - Requires the Director to encourage connections between new Americans and their communities.
  - Requires the Director to annually report to the Governor and General Assembly.
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## **CONTENT AND OPERATION**

### **Office of New Americans**

The bill creates the "Office of New Americans," in the Governor's executive cabinet to represent the interests of new Americans. The bill defines "new Americans" as people who live in Ohio but are not citizens or nationals of the United States. The bill

also creates a new position, the Director of the Office of New Americans, appointed by the Governor. The Director can hire staff to fulfill the Director's assigned duties.<sup>1</sup>

### **Director's duties**

Under the bill, the Director is assigned specific duties to represent the interests of new Americans. The duties include: increasing access to English as a second language (ESOL) training, providing resources to new Americans on the naturalization process, connecting new Americans to resources like employment referral and workforce development programs, working to reduce exploitation of new Americans, and coordinating with state agencies to accomplish the Director's duties. The Director also must encourage connections between new Americans and their communities by advising the Governor on matters affecting new Americans and helping local governments develop programs to engage new Americans in their communities.<sup>2</sup>

### **Director's annual report**

Under the bill, the Director must deliver a report to the Governor and General Assembly by June 30 of each year. The report must outline any workforce programs utilized, summarize communications received through the Office, and provide information on the ESOL training services provided during that year.<sup>3</sup>

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## **HISTORY**

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>DATE</b>
Introduced	04-28-16

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. 107.22(A) and (B).

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 107.22(C).

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 107.22(D).

