
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Abolishment of boards

- Abolishes the following boards:
 - Clean Ohio Council (also abolishes the associated brownfield cleanup remediation program, and requires the Department of Development to assume the Council's obligations);
 - Co-op/internship Advisory Committee;
 - Manufactured Homes Advisory Council;
 - Third Frontier Governing Board.

Board appointment deadline

- Extends the deadline for legislative appointments to certain boards until 45 days after the first regular session of each General Assembly.

Commission on Eastern European Affairs

- Establishes the Commission on Eastern European Affairs and specifies its membership and duties.
- Establishes the Office of Eastern European Affairs, which reports to the Commission, and specifies its duties.

New African Immigrants Commission

- Establishes the Office of New African Immigrant Affairs to assist the New African Immigrants Commission in fulfilling its duties.
- Creates the New African Immigrants Grant and Gift Fund in the state treasury.
- Adds four nonvoting members to the Commission to be appointed by the Speaker of the House and the Senate President, two of whom are General Assembly members.

Commission on Minority Health

- Expands the Commission on Minority Health to 22 members by adding the Director of Aging or the Director's designee.

General Assembly appointments

- Removes General Assembly appointments from the following boards:
 - Broadcast Educational Media Commission;
 - Child Support Guideline Advisory Council;
 - Chiropractic Loan Repayment Advisory Board;
 - Commission on Hispanic-Latino Affairs;

- Dentist Loan Repayment Advisory Board;
- Historical Boilers Licensing Board;
- Ohio Coal Development Office Technical Advisory Committee;
- Second Chance Trust Fund Advisory Committee.
- Eliminates the requirement for the Speaker of the House and the Senate President to recommend individuals for appointment to the New African Immigrants Commission.

OWDA member salary increase

- Increases, from \$5,000 to \$7,500, the annual salary of the five members of the Ohio Water Development Authority who are appointed by the Governor.

Abolishment of boards

The act abolishes the following boards:

- Clean Ohio Council (see “**Clean Ohio Council**,” below);
- Co-op/internship Advisory Committee (Repealed R.C. 3333.731; R.C. 3333.74);
- Manufactured Homes Advisory Council (Repealed R.C. 4781.02);
- Third Frontier Governing Board (repealed R.C. 184.03; R.C. 184.02, 184.20, and 183.19).

Clean Ohio Council

(Repealed R.C. 122.65, 122.651, 122.652, 122.653, 122.654, 122.655, 122.656, 122.657, 122.658, 122.659, 122.99, and 3745.40; conforming changes in R.C. 151.01, 151.40, 164.23, 164.24, 317.08, 725.01, 3745.015, 3746.13, 4313.02, and 5301.80; Section 525.50)

The act abolishes the Clean Ohio Council and the associated brownfield cleanup remediation program, and requires the Department of Development to assume the Council’s obligations. Any business commenced, but not completed by the Council must be completed by the Department. This will require the Department to oversee to completion any remaining active projects. All records of the Council must be transferred to the Department as well as all of its other assets and liabilities.

The act eliminates the Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund, and specifies that any obligations, which under former law were deposited into that fund, must instead be deposited into the General Revenue Fund.

Board appointment deadline

(R.C. 101.34, 101.84, 103.51, 103.60, 103.65, 103.71, 123.20, 3379.02, 3505.061, 3701.78, and 3702.92; Section 737.40)

The act allows 45 days after the commencement of the first regular session of a General Assembly, for an appointing authority (generally the Speaker of the House, the Senate President, or the Governor), to make appointments of members to the following boards:

- Joint Legislative Ethics Committee;
- Sunset Review Committee;
- Legislative Task Force on Redistricting, Reapportionment, and Demographic Research;
- Rare Disease Advisory Council;
- Ohio Health Oversight and Advisory Committee;
- Correctional Institution Inspection Committee;
- Ohio Facilities Construction Commission;
- Ohio Arts Council;
- Ohio Ballot Board;
- Commission on Minority Health.

Under former law, appointments to these boards were required to be made by an earlier date.

The act also requires the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee to conduct its first meeting 60 days after the first day of the first regular session of each General Assembly. Under former law, the Committee was required to conduct its first meeting 30 days after that date.

The act modifies the dates of appointment and schedule of terms for the Dentist Loan Repayment Advisory Board. (See “**Dentist Loan Repayment Advisory Board**,” below under “**General Assembly Appointments**.”)

Commission on Eastern European Affairs

Membership

(R.C. 107.22)

The act establishes the Commission on Eastern European Affairs, which consists of the following members:

- Three members appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, for a one-year term;
- Four members appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, for a two-year term;
- Two members appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, for a three-year term;
- One member, who is a private citizen, appointed by the Speaker of the House for a three-year term;
- One member, who is a private citizen, appointed by the Senate President for a three-year term;

- Two nonvoting members who are members of the General Assembly, each of whom is appointed by the presiding officers of their chamber.

Following the initial appointments, the term of office for each voting member will be three years. Voting members must remain in their post until a successor is appointed or until 30 days after the end of their term, whichever occurs first. The term of a nonvoting member expires when the nonvoting member is no longer a member of the General Assembly. A vacancy must be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

The Commission must meet at least six times per year. At its first meeting, the voting members must elect from amongst themselves a chairperson, vice-chairperson, and other officers. The members must also prescribe rules to govern the Commission. Six voting members constitute a quorum and no action may be taken without the affirmative vote of six voting members. Finally, the act allows voting members of the Commission to be compensated for “actual and necessary” expenses incurred and for each day that a member is engaged in the duties of the Commission, but not more than one day per month.

To be eligible to serve as a voting member of the Commission, a person must self-identify as being representative of one of various geographical regions of Eastern European people, proportionally representative of the Eastern European composition of Ohio, and must also be all of the following:

- A person of Eastern European origin, as defined in the act, or allied to such people;
- A U.S. citizen;
- A lawful and permanent resident of Ohio.

Finally, to serve on the Commission, the act requires each person to affirm the territorial sovereignty and integrity of Ukraine, relative to its territorial holdings before Russia’s annexation of Crimea in 2014 and subsequent invasion in 2022, as well as the territorial sovereignty and integrity of other countries.

Duties

(R.C. 107.23)

The act specifies the duties of the Commission, which include:

- Gather and disseminate information and conduct hearings, conferences, investigations, and special studies on issues and programs concerning Eastern European people;
- Secure appropriate recognition of accomplishments and contributions of Eastern European people to Ohio;
- Promote public awareness of the issues facing Eastern European people by conducting a program of public education;
- Develop, coordinate, and assist other public and private organizations that serve Eastern European people, including conducting training programs for community leadership and service project staff;

- Advise the Governor, General Assembly, and state agencies regarding the nature, magnitude, and priorities of the issues of Eastern European people;
- Advise the Governor, General Assembly, and state agencies on the special needs of Eastern European people regarding education, employment, energy, health, housing, welfare, and recreation, and develop and implement policies and programs to address those needs;
- Propose new programs concerning Eastern European people to public and private agencies and evaluate any existing programs within agencies;
- Review and approve grants from federal, state, or private funds that are administered or subcontracted by the Office of Eastern European Affairs;
- Review and approve the annual report prepared by the Office;
- Coordinate and provide information regarding available state services to meet the needs of Eastern European people;
- Appoint a Director to the Office.

The act defines “Eastern European people” to mean a person who self-identifies as possessing ancestry relative to any of the following: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Ukraine.

Office of Eastern European Affairs

(R.C. 107.24)

The act establishes the Office of Eastern European Affairs to assist the Commission in fulfilling its duties. As previously noted, the Commission must appoint a Director of the Office to serve at the Commission’s pleasure. The Director must appoint employees as necessary to assist in fulfilling the Office’s duties. Employees appointed by the Director serve at the pleasure of the Director.

The duties of the Office include the following:

- Provide information and advise the Commission on proposed solutions to problems of Eastern European people;
- Serve as a clearinghouse to review and comment on all proposals to meet the needs of Eastern European people that are submitted to the Office by public and private agencies;
- Apply for and accept grants and gifts from government and private sources to be administered by the Office or subcontracted to local agencies, as long as the local agencies use the grants and gifts for the public purpose intended;
- Monitor and evaluate all programs subcontracted to local agencies by the Commission and ensure that any grants and gifts from the government are being used for the public purpose intended;

- Endeavor to ensure that Eastern European people have access to decision-making bodies in all state and local government departments and agencies;
- Submit to the Commission a written annual report of the Office's activities, accomplishments, and recommendations;
- Establish advisory committees for special subjects, as needed, to facilitate and maximize community participation in the operation of the Commission. An advisory committee must be made up of persons representing community organizations, charitable institutions, public officials, and other persons as determined by the Office;
- Establish relationships with local governments, state governments, and private businesses that promote and ensure equal opportunity for Eastern European people in government, education, and employment.

New African Immigrants Commission

(R.C. 4112.32)

The act removes the requirement that the Speaker of the House, the Senate President, and the Minority Leaders of each chamber recommend members to the New African Immigrants Commission. Under former law, the Speaker and President each recommended to the Governor two individuals, and the Minority Leaders of each chamber recommended to the Governor one individual.

The act adds four nonvoting members to the Commission. The Speaker must appoint two nonvoting members, one of whom must be a member of the House and one of whom must be a private citizen. The President must appoint the remaining two nonvoting members, one of whom must be a member of the Senate and one of whom must be a private citizen. Each nonvoting member's term of office is four years. For a nonvoting member who is also a member of the General Assembly, the term of office expires at the end of the member's term in the General Assembly or after four years, whichever occurs first.

Under former law, all members of the Commission were required to be of sub-Saharan African origin and must have been either U.S. citizens or lawful, permanent, resident aliens. Members were also required to be from urban, suburban, and rural geographical areas representative of sub-Saharan African people with a numerical and geographical balance of the sub-Saharan African population throughout Ohio. The act specifies that these qualifications apply only to voting members of the Commission.

Office of New African Immigrant Affairs

(R.C. 4112.33)

The act establishes the Office of New African Immigrant Affairs to assist the Commission in fulfilling its duties. The Commission must appoint a Director of the Office, who will serve at the pleasure of the Commission. The Director, pending approval from the Commission, must appoint employees as necessary to assist the Office in its duties. Employees must serve at the pleasure of the Director.

New African Immigrants Grant and Gift Fund

(R.C. 4112.34)

The act also creates the New African Immigrants Grant and Gift Fund in the state treasury. The fund consists of grants and gifts received by the Commission, as well as funds transferred or appropriated by the General Assembly. The Commission must use the fund to support its duties, including operating the Office. Investment earnings of the fund must be credited to the fund.

Commission on Minority Health

(R.C. 3701.78)

The act adds the Director of Aging or the Director's designee to the Commission on Minority Health, bringing the Commission's membership to 22. The Directors of Health, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Developmental Disabilities, Job and Family Services, and Medicaid, or their designees, were already members.

General Assembly appointments

The act removes General Assembly appointments from the following boards.

Broadcast Educational Media Commission

(R.C. 3353.02)

The act eliminates the four members of the General Assembly from the Broadcast Educational Media Commission, two from the House and two from the Senate, who under former law served as nonvoting members on the Commission. Under continuing law, the Commission includes 11 voting members, nine who are representatives of the public, and the Director of Education and Workforce and the Chancellor of Higher Education, or their designees, who serve ex officio.

The nine public members, who are appointed by the Governor, must be selected from among leading citizens with a demonstrated interest in educational broadcast media through service in certain specified sectors. The act adds that these members may include individuals who are public officials or employees, with consideration given to leading Ohio citizens who have demonstrated interest in educational broadcast media through service or experience in broadcast media, education, or government administration.

Child support guideline advisory councils

(R.C. 3119.023)

The act removes the requirement that the Speaker of the House and the Senate President each appoint three members to a child support guideline advisory council. Continuing law requires the Department of Job and Family Services, every four years, to review the basic child support schedule issued by the Department to determine whether child support orders adequately provide for the needs of children who are subject to the child support orders. For each review, the Department must establish a child support guideline advisory council to assist it with completing its reviews and reports. Continuing law requires each council to consist of the following:

- Obligors;
- Obligees;
- Judges of courts of common pleas who have jurisdiction over domestic relations and juvenile court cases that involve the determination of child support;
- Attorneys whose practice includes a significant number of domestic relations or juvenile court cases that involve the determination of child support;
- Representatives of child support enforcement agencies;
- Other persons interested in the welfare of children.

Chiropractic Loan Repayment Advisory Board

(R.C. 3702.987)

The act removes the requirement that the Speaker of the House and the Senate President each appoint one member of their respective chambers to the Chiropractic Loan Repayment Advisory Board. Under continuing law, the Board consists of the following members:

- A representative of the Department of Higher Education, appointed by the Chancellor;
- The Director of Health or an employee of the Department of Health designated by the Director;
- Three representatives of the chiropractic profession, appointed by the Governor.

The purpose of the Board is to assist the Department of Health in administering the Chiropractic Loan Repayment Program, which provides loan repayment on behalf of individuals who agree to provide chiropractic services in areas designated as resource shortage areas.

Commission on Hispanic-Latino Affairs

(R.C. 121.31)

The act removes all four of the nonvoting members of the Commission on Hispanic-Latino Affairs. The four nonvoting members were members of the General Assembly, two appointed by the House Speaker (one from each political party) and two appointed by the Senate President (one from each political party). The 11 voting members, under continuing law, must each be appointed by the Governor. To be eligible to serve as a voting member, an individual must be all of the following:

- Capable of speaking Spanish;
- Of Spanish-speaking origin;
- A U.S. citizen or lawful, permanent, resident alien.

Furthermore, the Commission must consist of individuals from urban, suburban, and rural areas representative of Spanish-speaking people with a numerical and geographical balance of the Spanish-speaking population throughout Ohio.

Dentist Loan Repayment Advisory Board

(R.C. 3702.92; Section 737.40)

The act removes the requirement that the House Speaker and the Senate President each appoint two members to the Dentist Loan Repayment Advisory Board. The remaining members of the Board include:

- A representative of the Department of Higher Education designated by the Chancellor;
- The Director of Health or an employee of the Department of Health designated by the Director;
- Four representatives of the dental profession, appointed by the Governor from persons nominated by the Ohio Dental Association.

The purpose of the Board is to assist the Department of Health in administering the Dental Loan Repayment Program, which provides loan repayment on behalf of individuals who agree to provide dental services in resource shortage areas.

The act also adjusts the term of the Board members who are representatives of the dental profession appointed by the Governor, to begin on February 28 rather than January 28. The act makes no change to the two-year length of their terms. Finally, the act clarifies that a person who is a member of the Board before this provision's effective date may complete the term to which the person was appointed.

Historical Boilers Licensing Board

(R.C. 4104.33; Section 741.20)

The act transfers to the Governor the Speaker of the House's and the Senate President's authority to appoint members to the Historical Boilers Licensing Board. Under former law, the Speaker and President each appointed two members and the Governor appointed the remaining three. The act requires the Governor to appoint all seven members. Under continuing law, members must include the following:

- One employee of the Division of Boiler Inspection in the Department of Commerce;
- One independent mechanical engineer who is not involved in selling or inspecting historical boilers;
- One active member of an association that represents managers of fairs or festivals;
- Four members who each own a historical boiler, have at least ten years of experience in their operation, and reside in different regions of Ohio.

A current member of the Board who was appointed by the Speaker or President may complete their term. Upon the expiration of their terms, the Governor must make the necessary appointments.

Ohio Coal Development Office Technical Advisory Committee

(R.C. 1551.35)

The act removes the four members of the General Assembly from the Ohio Coal Development Office Technical Advisory Committee. Under former law, the Speaker of the House and the Senate President each appointed one member of their respective chambers, and the Minority Leaders of each chamber each appointed one member from their respective chambers.

The remaining members include the following, appointed by the Director of Development:

- One member of the Public Utilities Commission;
- One representative of coal production companies;
- One representative of United Mine Workers of America;
- One representative of electric utilities;
- Two individuals with a background in coal research and development technology, one of whom is employed at the time of the member's appointment by a state university.

The Director of Environmental Protection must also serve as an ex officio member of the Committee.

Second Chance Trust Fund Advisory Committee

(R.C. 2108.35)

The act reduces the membership of the Second Chance Trust Fund Advisory Committee from 13 to 11 by removing two members of the General Assembly. Under former law, the chairpersons of the standing committees of the House and Senate to which health-related matters were generally referred served as ex officio members.

The act makes additional changes removing the limit on the number of terms the remaining members may serve and revising the method for selecting the Committee's chairperson. These changes are discussed in the **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH** chapter.

OWDA member salary increase

(R.C. 6121.02)

The act increases, from \$5,000 to \$7,500, the annual salary of the five members of the Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA) who are appointed by the Governor. Under continuing law, each appointed member of the OWDA receives the annual salary in monthly installments and is entitled to health care benefits comparable to those generally available to state officers and employees.