
Executive**GOVCD4 Governor solemnizing marriage****R.C. 3101.08**

Authorizes the Governor or former Governors of Ohio to solemnize marriages.

Fiscal effect: None.

GOVCD3 Occupational license application processing time**R.C. 4798.08**

Allows the Common Sense Initiative Office (CSI) to examine any occupational license and require an occupational licensing board to report specified information regarding the occupational license's application processing time to CSI.

Allows CSI to establish an efficient application processing time for an occupational license reviewed by CSI.

Requires CSI, if an efficient application processing time is established, to direct the occupational licensing board to: (1) publish the established application processing time on the board's website; and (2) make available an electronic method for an applicant to request an application fee refund.

Allows an applicant to request an application fee refund if an occupational licensing board exceeds the established efficient application processing time with respect to a completed application.

Requires an occupational licensing board, on receipt of an application fee refund request, to: (1) refund the application fee to the extent permitted by law if the board exceeded the established time; and (2) inform CSI whether the refund request has been approved or denied.

States that an application fee refund in accordance with the provision has no bearing on the disposition of the underlying application.

Prohibits this provision from being construed to impair or otherwise affect the authority granted by law, regulation, or executive order to an occupational licensing board and does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the state, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

Fiscal effect: Potential increase in administrative costs for CSI if it chooses to utilize its authority; potential increase in costs for an occupational licensing board to comply with CSI requirements if imposed; potential revenue loss if an occupational licensing board has to refund application fees.

GOVCD1 Operating Expenses**Section: 289.20**

Reappropriates the certified available balance of GRF ALI 040321, Operating Expenses, at the end of FY 2025 and FY 2026 to FY 2026 and FY 2027, respectively.

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GOVCD2 Government Relations

Section: 289.20

Permits GOV to charge an executive branch agency for costs incurred to represent Ohio's interests to federal, state, and local governments and to cover membership dues related to Ohio's participation in national and regional associations. Requires the amounts collected be deposited in the Governmental Relations Fund (Fund 5AK0).

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BORCD90 Attainment Goal 2025 replacement**R.C. 3333.0415**

Replaces the outdated requirement that the Chancellor and DEW prepare an annual report regarding the progress the state is making in increasing the percentage of adults with a postsecondary credential to 65% by the year 2025 with one that requires the Chancellor, DEW, and OWT to establish the level of attainment necessary to achieve identified performance targets across a range of degrees and credentials.

Fiscal effect: None.**BORCD83 Ohio Work Ready Grant Program changes****R.C. 3333.24**

Requires the Chancellor and OWT to establish alternative criteria based on Ohio's emerging workforce needs to identify qualified programs for which a student may receive a first-time grant under the program on or after the bill's effective date.

Requires the Chancellor to collect and report data on technician-aligned associate degrees as a program metric.

Fiscal effect: Under current law, a qualified program is a credit or noncredit program that leads to an industry-recognized credential, certificate, or degree that (1) prepares the student for an in-demand or critical job or (2) is submitted by a two-year community college or regional campus or OTC to meet regional workforce needs. The bill appropriates \$10 million in each fiscal year from GRF ALI 235425, Ohio Work Ready Grant Program, to fund the grants (see BORCD9).

BORCD65 Talent Ready Grant Program and GRF cash transfer to Fund 5NH0**Section: 381.630, 512.10**

Requires that Fund 5NH0 ALI 235517, Talent Ready Grant Program, be used by the Chancellor to administer the Talent Ready Grant program to support workforce credential and certificate programs under 30 credit hours at a community college or university regional campus or less than 900 clock hours at an OTC.

Requires that ALI 235517 do both of the following:

(1) Establish and operate workforce credential and certificate programs under 30 credit hours or less than 900 clock hours, as identified by OWT and the Chancellor. Requires that the Chancellor and OWT, when identifying programs as eligible for funding, review the top jobs list and prioritize programs that are particularly well-aligned with occupations determined to be most in-demand to meet statewide or regional workforce goals. Authorizes an eligible entity to submit a request to the Chancellor to consider adding a program to the list identified as eligible for funding by providing information and justification.

(2) Provide additional support to short-term certificate programs determined to be eligible for funding, as identified by OWT and the Chancellor.

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Requires the Chancellor to allocate funds among eligible institutions in approximate proportion to each entity's share of eligible short-term certificate programs, while considering student enrollments, completions, past utilization of short-term certificate funding, and other factors. Requires, for purposes of allocating funds between community colleges, the Chancellor to allocate funding to each campus in proportion to each campus's share of the total sector's course completions for the most recent available year, as reported through the Higher Education Information system (HEI) student enrollment file, weighted by the instructional cost of subsidy models.

Requires the OBM Director to transfer \$20,000,000 cash in FY 2026 from the GRF to the OhioMeansJobs Workforce Development Revolving Loan Fund (Fund 5NH0) to support the program.

BORCD76 College Credit Plus Program engagement and model pathways**Section: 381.720**

Permits the Chancellor and DEW Director to take action as necessary to ensure that public colleges and universities and school districts are fully engaging and participating in the College Credit Plus (CCP) Program including publicly displaying program participation data by district and institution.

Requires the Chancellor and DEW Director, to work with public secondary schools and partnering public colleges and universities, as necessary, to encourage the establishment of CCP model pathways that prepare participants to successfully enter the workforce in certain fields.

Requires students enrolled under a statewide innovative waiver pathway to follow a model pathway, with priority given to pathways aligned with engineering technology and other fields essential to the superconductor industry.

Fiscal effect: Potential minimal increase in administrative costs for ODHE and DEW.

BORCD79 General Education Requirements**Section: 381.750**

Requires, no later than December 31, 2025, a board of trustees of a state institution of higher education to formally review and evaluate the components of its institution's general education curriculum and adopt a resolution acknowledging the board's completion of that review. Requires each board to submit a copy of its resolution to the Chancellor.

Requires, no later than March 31, 2026, each board to formally evaluate its institution's general education curriculum to enhance content that furthers the state's post-secondary education attainment and workforce goals. Requires each board to adjust the curriculum in the following areas: (1) civics, culture, and society; (2) artificial intelligence, STEM, and computational thinking; (3) entrepreneurship and the principles of innovation; and, (4) workforce readiness.

Requires, no later than June 30, 2026, each board to adopt a resolution summarizing changes to its institution's general education curriculum resulting from its evaluation process and to submit a copy of the resolution to the Chancellor.

Requires the Chancellor to provide a copy of each of the resolutions submitted by institutions to the Governor, President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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Fiscal effect: Increase in administrative workload for each state institution of higher education to evaluate its general education requirements.

BORCD80 Ohio Tech Talent Initiative**Section: 381.760**

Establishes the Ohio Tech Talent Initiative to promote, prioritize, and expand engineering technician education for engineering technology and other fields essential to the semiconductor and advanced manufacturing industries. Authorizes the Chancellor to determine the list of academic programs to be included, with OWT, based on the Classification of Instructional Program (CIP).

Requires, for certain model and statewide innovative waiver pathways, the Chancellor and DEW Director, in conjunction with OWT, to jointly collaborate with public secondary schools and partnering public colleges and universities to establish, promote, and prioritize pathways that prepare participants to successfully enter the workforce in engineering technology and other fields essential to the semiconductor or advanced manufacturing industries.

Requires the Chancellor and DEW Director to also leverage the one-year option credit articulation process for students enrolled in OTCs who complete a 900-hour program of study and obtain an industry-recognized credential.

Authorizes the Chancellor and DEW Director to use funds from the following operating and capital ALIs: (1) GRF ALI 235438, Choose Ohio First; (2) Fund 5NH0 ALI 235517, Ohio Work Ready Grant; (3) GRF ALI 235425, Ohio Work Ready Grant; (4) Fund 5YD0 ALI 235494, Second Chance Grant Program; (5) Fund 7034 ALI C23528, Workforce Based Training and Equipment; (6) GRF ALI 195556, TechCred Program; and, (7) other appropriation items as determined by the Chancellor and OWT.

Authorizes the Chancellor to require state and private institutions of higher education to establish a workforce-education partnership, and to require that each partnership specifically focus on engineering technology and other fields essential to the semiconductor and advanced manufacturing industries.

Fiscal effect: ODHE may incur additional costs to administer the initiative. Any ALIs used to support the initiative will incur an increase in expenditures should the Chancellor and DEW Director choose to use them.

BORCD81 Direct admissions**Section: 381.770**

Requires the Chancellor and DEW Director to establish a direct admissions pilot program to notify high school students if they meet the admissions requirements of participating postsecondary education institutions.

Requires the Chancellor to endeavor to implement the program so that students graduating in the 2026-2027 school year may participate.

Requires the Chancellor, as part of the program, to do all of the following:

(1) Establish an automated process that uses a student's academic record in existing student information systems and information held by a student's high school to determine whether the student meets the admissions requirements; and

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(2) Issue a report, at least once each school year, about the pilot program, and submit it to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, DEW Director, OBM Director, OWT, and the Governor.

Authorizes the Chancellor to terminate the pilot program if its operation is determined impracticable.

Permits a participating school governing body to adopt a written policy authorizing its high schools to participate in the pilot program.

Requires a participating school governing body to develop a procedure to determine if students who wish to participate in the pilot program meet any eligibility requirements established by the Chancellor.

Prohibits requiring any student, school, or institution to participate in the pilot program.

Fiscal effect: The program is voluntary for secondary and postsecondary institutions. ODHE's administrative costs will increase to develop and implement the pilot program. However, ODHE may terminate it if its operation is determined impracticable.

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DPSCD40 Representation for sworn officers in criminal complaints**R.C. 109.872**

Allows the Governor or the Governor's designee, at their discretion, to approve legal representation for a sworn employee as described below.

Allows a sworn employee who was involved in a use of force incident that resulted in physical harm or death to another individual to apply for legal representation if the use of force was within the scope of that employee's official duties.

Requires the sworn employee's appointing authority to pay the costs of that representation.

Defines "sworn employee" as:

- (a) Enforcement agents appointed to enforce Ohio's liquor laws and rules regulating the use of supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) benefits (i.e. Ohio Investigative Unit);
- (b) The Superintendent and troopers of the Ohio State Highway Patrol;
- (c) Special police officers of the Ohio State Highway Patrol; and
- (d) Other employees of any department, agency, or board of this state who are under the executive branch and ultimately report to the Governor and are authorized to investigate, execute the laws of the state, protect public safety, or enforce the laws of this state as part of their job duties.

Fiscal effect: Potential increase in costs for a sworn employee's appointing authority if legal representation is requested and approved.