

**As Introduced**

**132nd General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2017-2018**

**S. B. No. 183**

**Senator LaRose**

**Cosponsors: Senators Beagle, Coley**

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**A BILL**

To create the Joint Committee to Study Ohio  
Business Courts. 1  
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**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** (A) There is hereby created the Joint Committee 3  
to Study Ohio Business Courts consisting of the following 4  
nineteen members: 5

(1) Two members of the House of Representatives appointed 6  
by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; 7

(2) One member of the House of Representatives appointed 8  
by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives; 9

(3) Two members of the Senate appointed by the President 10  
of the Senate; 11

(4) One member of the Senate appointed by the Minority 12  
Leader of the Senate; 13

(5) Three sitting judges appointed by the Chief Justice of 14  
the Ohio Supreme Court, each of whom shall represent the Ohio 15  
Supreme Court, a court of appeals, or a court of common pleas; 16

(6) Three senior level executives of businesses 17  
incorporated in Ohio, one appointed by the Speaker of the House 18  
of Representatives, one appointed by the President of the 19  
Senate, and one appointed by the Secretary of State; 20

(7) Three business or law professors from a state 21  
university located in Ohio, one appointed by the Speaker of the 22  
House of Representatives, one appointed by the President of the 23  
Senate, and one appointed by the Secretary of State; 24

(8) One employee of the office of the Secretary of State 25  
who is an expert in Ohio business filings, appointed by the 26  
Secretary of State; 27

(9) Three individuals who represent Ohio's business 28  
interests appointed by the Secretary of State. 29

(B) (1) The appointments to the Committee shall be made not 30  
later than sixty days after the effective date of this act. 31  
Vacancies on the Committee shall be filled in the same manner 32  
provided for the original appointments. 33

(2) Two members of the Committee shall be designated to 34  
serve as co-chairpersons. The Speaker of the House of 35  
Representatives and the President of the Senate shall each 36  
designate one co-chairperson, each of whom shall be a member of 37  
the House of Representatives and a member of the Senate, 38  
respectively. 39

(3) The Committee shall meet within thirty days after the 40  
appointments to the Committee and thereafter shall meet once 41  
every month. 42

(4) The members of the Committee shall serve without 43  
compensation, but each member shall be reimbursed for the 44  
member's actual and necessary expenses incurred in the 45

performance of the member's official duties on the Committee. 46

(5) The staff of the Legislative Service Commission shall 47  
provide staff support for the Committee. 48

(C) The Committee shall study the potential effect of a 49  
business court system on Ohio's business climate, whether or not 50  
a business court system would effectively encourage a company to 51  
want to register in Ohio, how many business courts would be 52  
necessary in Ohio, whether there are potential judges who are 53  
available who would have the necessary business expertise to 54  
properly operate a business court system, what the effects of a 55  
business court system would be on courts of common pleas, and 56  
whether a business court system could be funded solely on court 57  
filing fees. 58

(D) If the Committee determines that a business court 59  
system would be beneficial in Ohio, the Committee shall draft 60  
language to become legislation that would create the business 61  
court system and submit that draft to the Speaker of the House 62  
of Representatives, the President of the Senate, and the Chief 63  
Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court not later than one year after 64  
the effective date of this act. If the Committee determines that 65  
a business court system would not be beneficial in Ohio, the 66  
Committee shall submit in writing the Committee's reasoning to 67  
the Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court not later than one 68  
year after the effective date of this act. On the Committee's 69  
submission of either draft language to become legislation or the 70  
Committee's reasoning, the Committee shall cease to exist. 71

(E) All meetings of the Committee are public meetings and 72  
shall be open to the public at all times. A member of the 73  
Committee shall be present in person at a meeting that is open 74  
to the public in order to be considered present or to vote at 75

the meeting and for the purpose of determining whether a quorum 76  
is present. The chairs of the Committee shall promptly prepare 77  
and maintain the minutes of the meetings, and the minutes shall 78  
be public records pursuant to section 149.43 of the Revised 79  
Code. The Committee shall give reasonable notice of the 80  
Committee's meetings so that any person may determine the time 81  
and place of all scheduled meetings. The Committee shall not 82  
hold a meeting unless the Committee gives at least twenty-four 83  
hours' advance notice to news media organizations that have 84  
requested notification of the Committee's meetings. 85