

As Introduced

**132nd General Assembly
Regular Session
2017-2018**

S. B. No. 183

**Senator LaRose
Cosponsors: Senators Beagle, Coley**

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
incorporated in Ohio, one appointed by the Speaker of the House
of Representatives, one appointed by the President of the
Senate, and one appointed by the Secretary of State;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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