

**As Introduced**

**132nd General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2017-2018**

**S. B. No. 97**

**Senators LaRose, Yuko**

**Cosponsors: Senators Beagle, Hite, Brown, Tavares**

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**A BILL**

To establish a Regional Economic Development Alliance Study Committee to study the benefits and challenges involved in creating regional economic development alliances. 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 Regional Economic Development Alliance Study Committee. The Committee shall consist of the following members: 5  
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(1) Three members of the House of Representatives, not more than two of whom are members of the same party, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; 8  
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(2) Three members of the Senate, not more than two of whom are members of the same party, appointed by the President of the Senate; 11  
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(3) The Governor, or the Governor's designee; 14

(4) Two representatives from academia engaged in relevant fields of study, appointed by the co-chairpersons of the Committee; 15  
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(5) Two individuals who are economic development professionals, appointed by the co-chairpersons of the Committee;

(6) The chairperson of the Regional Prosperity Initiative, or the chairperson's designee, as a nonvoting, ex officio member.

Members of the Committee shall be appointed not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancies that occur on the Committee shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate shall each appoint one member of the Committee to serve as a co-chairperson of the Committee. The Committee shall hold its initial meeting as soon as practicable after the last member of the Committee is appointed. All subsequent meetings shall be held at the call of the co-chairpersons.

(B) The Committee shall study the features, benefits, and challenges involved in establishing regional economic development alliances that would enhance collaboration for successful regional economic development efforts, allow for the sharing of services, and permit the mobilization of necessary resources among alliance members. The Committee shall also examine the ways in which such alliances would address the needs of regions throughout the state.

In completing its study, the Committee shall consult with various resource groups, including county commissioners, township trustees, mayors, city council members, members of statewide and regional organizations that represent political

subdivisions, and members of chambers of commerce. 47

(C) Not later than one year after the effective date of 48  
this section, the Committee shall submit a report of its 49  
findings and conclusions to the Governor, the Speaker of the 50  
House of Representatives, and the President of the Senate. The 51  
Committee ceases to exist upon the submission of its report. 52