A BILL

To amend section 121.30 and to enact sections 121.34, 121.341, and 121.342 of the Revised Code to create the Women's Policy and Research Center, to specify their powers and duties, and to make an appropriation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 121.30 be amended and sections 121.34, 121.341, and 121.342 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

Sec. 121.30. As used in sections 121.30 to 121.34, 121.33 of the Revised Code, "Spanish-speaking people" means persons who possess any of the following characteristics:

(A) Use Spanish as their primary language;

(B) Regard themselves as or are regarded in their community as being of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central
American, South American, Spanish, or other Spanish-speaking origin or descent.

Sec. 121.34. (A) There is the women's policy and research commission to promote the advancement of women and remove barriers to women's equality. The commission shall consist of fifteen members.

(B) The governor shall appoint six members to represent the public, not more than three of whom shall be members of the same political party. Members appointed by the governor may include, but are not limited to, persons who are active in and knowledgeable about the following areas: health and human services, education, business and industry, science and technology, arts and culture, the promotion of social justice, law and government, and volunteerism. The president and minority leader of the senate each shall appoint one member of the senate, and one nonlegislator member to represent the public. The speaker and minority leader of the house of representatives each shall appoint one member of the house of representatives, and one nonlegislator member to represent the public. The governor or the governor's designee shall be a member of the commission.

Each member of the commission shall be an elector of this state. At least two-thirds of the members of the commission shall be women. The membership of the commission shall reflect the diversity of this state's population with respect to age, race, and ethnic background. The governor, the president and minority leader of the senate, and the speaker and minority leader of the house of representatives shall consult with individuals and organizations that promote the advancement of women to seek their recommendations of persons to serve as
public members of the commission.

Of the governor's initial appointments to the commission, three shall be to terms that end one year after the effective date of this section, two shall be to terms that end two years after that date, and one shall be to a term that ends three years after that date. The initial appointment of the public member by the speaker of the house of representatives shall be to a term that ends two years after the effective date of this section, and the initial appointment of the public member by the minority leader of the house of representatives shall be to a term that ends three years after that date. The initial appointment of the public member by the president of the senate shall be to a term that ends two years after the effective date of this section, and the initial appointment of the public member by the minority leader of the senate shall be to a term that ends three years after that date. Thereafter, the terms of office of all public members shall be for three years, with each term ending on the same day of the same month as did the term it succeeds.

The speaker and minority leader of the house of representatives and the president and minority leader of the senate shall appoint the legislator members to the commission within thirty days after the commencement of the first regular session of each general assembly. These members shall serve on the commission until their respective successors are appointed or until they are no longer members of the general assembly. A public member who has served two consecutive three-year terms on the commission is ineligible for reappointment to the commission until three years have passed since the end of the member's second consecutive three-year term. A legislator member who has served three consecutive terms on the commission is ineligible.
for reappointment to the commission until two years have passed
since the end of the member's third consecutive term. Vacancies
shall be filled in the manner provided for original
appointments. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring
before the expiration date of the term for which a predecessor
was appointed shall hold office as a member for the remainder of
that term. A public member shall continue in office following
the expiration date of the member's term until a successor is
appointed or until a period of ninety days has elapsed,
whichever occurs first.

(C) Members of the commission shall receive no
compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses,
actually incurred in the conduct of their official business.

(D) The governor shall call the first meeting of the
commission within forty-five days after all commission members
have been appointed. Thereafter, the commission shall prescribe
the manner and the times at which commission meetings shall be
called, except that the commission shall meet at least four
times annually. The commission shall choose annually from among
its members a chair to preside over its meetings, a secretary to
keep a record of its proceedings, and such other officers as it
considers necessary. A majority of the members of the commission
constitutes a quorum.

Sec. 121.341. (A) The women's policy and research
commission shall do all of the following:

(1) Establish policies and procedures governing the
operation of the women's policy and research center established
under section 121.342 of the Revised Code;

(2) Employ an executive director for the center to
implement the policies and procedures established under division (A)(1) of this section;

(3) Furnish a written report of its activities for the preceding calendar year, not later than the first day of February of each year, to the governor, the president of the senate, and the speaker of the house of representatives.

(B) The commission may do any of the following:

(1) Hold public hearings to assess the problems and needs of women in this state;

(2) Create standing or special committees as needed. These standing or special committees shall be chaired by a member of the commission but may include members who are not members of the commission.

(3) Sell publications issued by the commission or the center;

(4) Accept gifts, donations, benefits, and other funds from any public agency or private source to carry out any or all of the commission's or center's powers or duties.

(C) All expenses incurred in carrying out this section and sections 121.34 and 121.342 of the Revised Code are payable solely from the funds of the commission.

(D) There is in the state treasury the women's policy and research commission fund. All proceeds from the sale of publications under division (B)(3) of this section and all gifts, donations, benefits, and other funds received by the commission under division (B)(4) of this section shall be deposited in the fund.

Sec. 121.342. (A) There is the women's policy and research
center under the supervision of the women's policy and research commission. The center shall do all of the following:

1. Identify, through research, data collection, and public hearings, barriers to women's equality;

2. Maintain and make available to the appropriate appointing authorities lists of persons qualified for appointment to positions in state government;

3. Educate the public on the status of women and on the impact of public policy on women;

4. Issue reports and recommendations to the executive and legislative branches of state government and to the general public regarding women's policy issues;

5. Analyze current and proposed public policies to determine their impact on women, and report the analysis to the appropriate authorities;

6. Help the public and private sectors develop programs and services for women;

7. Encourage collaboration between the center and other public agencies and institutions on issues of mutual interest to them.

8. The executive director of the center shall appoint the center's employees with the approval of the commission.

Section 2. That existing section 121.30 of the Revised Code is hereby repealed.

Section 3. All items in this section are hereby appropriated as designated out of any moneys in the state treasury to the credit of the designated fund. For all
appropriations made in this act, those in the first column are for fiscal year 2020 and those in the second column are for fiscal year 2021. The appropriations made in this act are in addition to any other appropriations made for the FY 2020-FY 2021 biennium.

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**Section 4.** Within the limits set forth in this act, the Director of Budget and Management shall establish accounts indicating the source and amount of funds for each appropriation made in this act, and shall determine the form and manner in which appropriation accounts shall be maintained. Expenditures from appropriations contained in this act shall be accounted for as though made in H.B. 166 of the 133rd General Assembly.

The appropriations made in this act are subject to all provisions of H.B. 166 of the 133rd General Assembly that are generally applicable to such appropriations.