

**As Introduced**

**131st General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2015-2016**

**H. B. No. 175**

**Representative Barnes**

---

**A BILL**

To enact section 122.863 of the Revised Code to 1  
establish the "Access to Global Market 2  
Opportunities for Ohio Manufactured Products 3  
Program" to be composed of the "Ohio Global 4  
Leadership Initiative" and the "Global 5  
Initiative on International Relations" to create 6  
new, untapped global markets for Ohio businesses 7  
and thereby promote job creation. 8

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

**Section 1.** That section 122.863 of the Revised Code be 9  
enacted to read as follows: 10

**Sec. 122.863.** (A) As used in this section: 11

(1) "Ohio Commodore" means an individual appointed by the 12  
governor to the Executive Order of the Ohio Commodores, a 13  
distinction founded in 1966 to honor outstanding contributions 14  
to the economic development of the state. 15

(2) "District Export Council" means an organization of 16  
business leaders in this state appointed by United States 17  
secretaries of Commerce to promote economic health and create 18  
new higher-paying jobs by assisting small and medium-sized 19

businesses to establish or increase export sales. 20

(3) "Education" includes both public and private 21  
institutions of higher education. 22

(4) "Travel expenses" means actual and necessary traveling 23  
and other expenses incurred while attending any gathering, 24  
conference, retreat, or convention, or while performing official 25  
duties, inside or outside this state. 26

(B) There is hereby established the access to global 27  
market opportunities for Ohio manufactured products program for 28  
the purpose of encouraging executive and legislative efforts to 29  
promote internationally the state of Ohio and its economy, 30  
diplomacy, and humanity and to align Ohio government, market, 31  
and industry forces to increase Ohio businesses' access to 32  
global market opportunities, thereby enhancing their competitive 33  
advantage in world markets and promoting job creation in Ohio. 34

(C) (1) There is hereby created the global initiative on 35  
international relations. The global initiative shall, through 36  
diplomatic efforts, advance and promote Ohio's education, 37  
economy, diplomacy, humanity, and legislative initiatives and 38  
build and manage reciprocal relationships with foreign 39  
governments as is consistent with the new integrated principle 40  
of the global economy. 41

(2) The global initiative on international relations shall 42  
consist of not less than twenty individuals, each of whom shall 43  
hold the title "Ohio ambassador." The total number of Ohio 44  
ambassadors that may be appointed shall be determined on the 45  
basis of need, as influenced by the size and number of global 46  
economic regions identified by the director of development 47  
services. 48

(3) One-half of the Ohio ambassadors shall be appointed by 49  
the speaker of the house of representatives and one-half shall 50  
be appointed by the president of the senate. Two of the Ohio 51  
ambassadors appointed by the speaker shall be members of the 52  
house of representatives. Two of the Ohio ambassadors appointed 53  
by the president of the senate shall be members of the senate. 54  
All of the remaining Ohio ambassadors shall be Ohio commodores. 55  
Appointment as an Ohio ambassador is not the holding of a public 56  
office for the purposes of Article II, Section 4, Ohio 57  
Constitution. Ohio ambassadors serve at the pleasure of their 58  
appointing authority. 59

(4) Ohio ambassadors shall not be paid for their service, 60  
but may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in 61  
carrying out their duties under this section. An Ohio ambassador 62  
who is a member of the house of representatives shall not be 63  
reimbursed under this division for travel expenses unless the 64  
member obtains written approval from the governor and the 65  
speaker of the house of representative before traveling. An Ohio 66  
ambassador who is a member of the senate shall not be reimbursed 67  
under this division for travel expenses unless the member 68  
obtains written approval from the governor and the president of 69  
the senate before traveling. 70

For the purposes of reimbursing Ohio ambassadors under 71  
this division, the initiative may seek federal grants available 72  
for promoting reciprocal commerce. Such grants shall be 73  
deposited to the credit of the Ohio ambassador fund, which is 74  
hereby created in the state treasury, to be used for the 75  
purposes of division (C) of this section. The fund may also 76  
consist of private donations or deposits to the fund by federal, 77  
state, or local government. 78

(D) (1) Within the development services agency, there is hereby created the Ohio global leadership initiative. The initiative shall build models of opportunity to facilitate Ohio businesses' entry or expansion into foreign markets, thereby enhancing Ohio businesses' competitive advantage in world markets and promoting job creation in Ohio. 79  
80  
81  
82  
83  
84

(2) The director of development services shall designate select members of Ohio District Export Councils to serve as "Ohio business consulates." Ohio business consulates shall assist Ohio businesses in establishing relationships with foreign businesses, market or industry trade groups, or regulatory authorities; brokering business transactions in foreign markets; promoting the business in foreign markets; or securing advice and information regarding foreign languages and local business and social customs. 85  
86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92  
93

(3) Ohio business consulates shall report to the director of development services on all activities related to the position and the value of any transaction facilitated by the consulate. Consulate reports shall be filed at intervals and in a manner to be determined by the director. The director, within a reasonable period of time after the effective date of the enactment of this section, shall develop and make available to consulates an electronic method for filing the reports required by this division. 94  
95  
96  
97  
98  
99  
100  
101  
102

(4) The designation of an individual as an Ohio business consulate does not, in and of itself, cause the individual to be an employee or agent of any state agency. No individual shall receive compensation from any state agency for services performed as a consulate. 103  
104  
105  
106  
107

(5) An agreement shall be required for Ohio business 108

consulates to legally bind Ohio businesses with respect to 109  
certain issues to be determined by the director of development 110  
services and the attorney general, including the license or sale 111  
of intellectual property, trademarks, and copyrights. 112

(6) The director of development services shall adopt rules 113  
under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to administer this 114  
section. 115

(E) The access to global market opportunities for Ohio 116  
manufactured products program, through the individual efforts of 117  
the global initiative on international relations and the Ohio 118  
leadership global initiative shall strive to achieve the 119  
following goals: 120

(1) Facilitating logistics for Ohio businesses seeking to 121  
use foreign ports and for foreign businesses seeking to use Ohio 122  
ports; 123

(2) Enhancing industry development for Ohio's chief 124  
twenty-five industries, as determined by the director of 125  
development services; 126

(3) Promoting reciprocal trade activities, such as trade 127  
shows; 128

(4) Holding an annual industry-sponsored reception in the 129  
District of Columbia, hosting government and business 130  
representatives from key foreign nations; 131

(5) Enhancing and promoting Ohio's industry of partial 132  
manufacturing; 133

(6) Attraction of foreign investment to Ohio; 134

(7) Educational exchange. 135

(F) The director of development services shall publish an Ohio international trade booklet, which shall list businesses in Ohio that could be suppliers to international markets, arranged according to each industry's North American industry classification system. The booklet shall be published and updated as often as the director finds desirable. The costs of publishing the booklet may be paid by fees charged to businesses requesting to be listed in the booklet and from any other fund available for the purpose. If fees paid by such businesses exceed the costs of publication, the director may direct that the excess shall be deposited in the Ohio ambassador fund created by division (C) of this section.

(G) Nothing in this section exempts Ohio ambassadors or Ohio business consulates from any federal, state, or local law.

**Section 2.** 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 2016 and those in the second column are for fiscal year 2017. The appropriations made in this act are in addition to any other appropriations made for the FY 2016-FY 2017 biennium.

DEV DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGENCY

Dedicated Purpose Fund Group

5XXX	195XXX	Access to Global Markets	\$100,000	\$0
Total DPF Dedicated Purpose Fund Group			\$100,000	\$0
TOTAL ALL BUDGET FUND GROUPS			\$100,000	\$0

ACCESS TO GLOBAL MARKETS

On July 1, 2015, or as soon as possible thereafter, the 164  
Director of Budget and Management shall transfer \$100,000 cash 165  
from the General Revenue Fund to the Ohio Ambassador Fund, 166  
established in section 122.863 of the Revised Code. 167

The foregoing appropriation item 195XXX, Access to Global 168  
Markets, shall be used for the Access to Global Market 169  
Opportunities for Ohio Manufactured Products Program as 170  
described in section 122.863 of the Revised Code, and 171  
specifically for the purposes identified under Division (E) of 172  
section 122.863 of the Revised Code. 173

**Section 3.** Within the limits set forth in this act, the 174  
Director of Budget and Management shall establish accounts 175  
indicating the source and amount of funds for each appropriation 176  
made in this act and shall determine the form and manner in 177  
which appropriation accounts shall be maintained. Expenditures 178  
from appropriations contained in this act shall be accounted for 179  
as though made in the main operating appropriations act of the 180  
131st General Assembly. 181

The appropriations made in this act are subject to all 182  
provisions of the main operating appropriations act of the 131st 183  
General Assembly that are generally applicable to such 184  
appropriations. 185