

As Introduced

134th General Assembly

Regular Session

2021-2022

H. B. No. 173

Representatives Click, Pavliga

**Cosponsors: Representatives Ginter, Gross, John, McClain, Schmidt, Stoltzfus,
White**

A BILL

To enact section 5101.39 of the Revised Code to 1
establish the Ohio Family Stability Commission. 2

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

Section 1. That section 5101.39 of the Revised Code be 3
enacted to read as follows: 4

Sec. 5101.39. (A) There is created in the department of 5
job and family services the Ohio family stability commission. 6
The commission shall consider information on a variety of issues 7
that may have an affect on family stability, recommend 8
legislation to the general assembly or rules to a state agency 9
to advance policies that address those issues, and monitor 10
related legislation and rule-making processes. 11

(B) The commission shall consist of six members of the 12
general assembly and other individuals who are government agency 13
representatives, private citizens, or appointed or elected 14
officials other than members of the general assembly. 15

Of the general assembly members, three shall be appointed 16
by the president of the senate, at least one of whom shall not 17

be from the political party of the president, and three shall be 18
appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, at 19
least one of whom shall not be from the political party of the 20
speaker. 21

The governor shall appoint at least three but not more 22
than five members. The chair of the commission, with the consent 23
of the vice-chair, may appoint to the commission not more than 24
three private citizens who have experience or knowledge on 25
issues of concern to the commission. The vice-chair, with the 26
consent of the chair, may appoint to the commission not more 27
than two private citizens who have experience or knowledge on 28
issues of concern to the commission. 29

Each odd-numbered year, the speaker of the house shall 30
select a member of the commission, who is a member of the house 31
of representatives, to serve as chair, and each even-numbered 32
year the speaker shall select such a person to serve as vice- 33
chair. Each even-numbered year the president of the senate shall 34
select a member of the commission, who is a member of the 35
senate, to serve as chair, and each odd-numbered year the 36
president shall select such a person to serve as vice-chair. 37

The term for each commission member shall commence upon 38
appointment and expire the thirty-first day of December in the 39
second year of the general assembly during which the member was 40
appointed to the commission. Commission members shall serve at 41
the pleasure of their appointing authorities. Vacancies shall be 42
filled in the manner provided for original appointments. 43

(C) Members of the commission who are members of the 44
general assembly, government agency representatives, or 45
appointed or elected officials, shall serve without 46
compensation, except to the extent that serving on the 47

commission is considered part of their regular duties of 48
employment. Members of the commission who are private citizens 49
shall be paid an amount fixed pursuant to division (J) of 50
section 124.15 of the Revised Code for each day or portion 51
thereof spent in the discharge of the member's official duties. 52
All members of the commission shall be reimbursed for actual and 53
necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of commission 54
duties. 55

(D) The department of job and family services shall 56
provide staffing assistance. This division does not require the 57
department to employ personnel the department otherwise would 58
not have employed. 59

(E) The commission shall formulate recommendations for 60
consideration by the general assembly, appropriate state 61
agencies, and other appropriate entities concerning societal 62
issues that impact the stability of families in this state. Not 63
later than one year after the effective date of this section, 64
and biennially thereafter, the commission shall submit to the 65
general assembly, in the manner specified in section 101.68 of 66
the Revised Code, and to the governor, a report describing each 67
recommendation and the information considered that informed the 68
recommendation. 69

At a minimum, the commission's recommendations shall 70
address all of the following: 71

(1) Strategies for reducing the divorce rate in this 72
state; 73

(2) Strategies for reducing the number of conceptions, 74
abortions, and births occurring outside of marriage in this 75
state; 76

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| <u>(3) Strategies for reducing the rate of domestic violence</u> | 77 |
| <u>in this state;</u> | 78 |
| <u>(4) Strategies for reducing the rate of child abuse in</u> | 79 |
| <u>this state;</u> | 80 |
| <u>(5) Issues concerning child custody and child support;</u> | 81 |
| <u>(6) Societal issues that discourage or prevent couples</u> | 82 |
| <u>from engaging in marriage;</u> | 83 |
| <u>(7) Societal issues concerning the effect of substance</u> | 84 |
| <u>abuse and addiction on family stability.</u> | 85 |
| <u>(F) The commission shall monitor legislative and rule-</u> | 86 |
| <u>making activities derived from the recommendations formulated</u> | 87 |
| <u>under division (E) of this section.</u> | 88 |