

As Introduced

**135th General Assembly
Regular Session
2023-2024**

S. B. No. 117

Senators Cirino, McColley

A BILL

To enact sections 3335.39 and 3364.07 of the
Revised Code to establish the Salmon P. Chase
Center for Civics, Culture, and Society at the
Ohio State University, to establish the
Institute of American Constitutional Thought and
Leadership at the University of Toledo, and to
make an appropriation.

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

Section 1. That sections 3335.39 and 3364.07 of the
Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

Sec. 3335.39. (A) (1) The Salmon P. Chase center for
civics, culture, and society is established as an independent
academic unit within the Ohio state university. The center shall
conduct teaching and research in the historical ideas,
traditions, and texts that have shaped the American
constitutional order and society.

(2) The center shall establish bylaws requiring the center
to do all of the following:

(a) Educate students by means of free, open, and rigorous
intellectual inquiry to seek the truth;

(b) Affirm its duty to equip students with the skills, habits, and dispositions of mind they need to reach their own informed conclusions on matters of social and political importance; 20
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(c) Affirm the value of intellectual diversity in higher education and aspire to enhance the intellectual diversity of the university; 24
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(d) Affirm a commitment to create a community dedicated to an ethic of civil and free inquiry, which respects the intellectual freedom of each member, supports individual capacities for growth, and welcomes the differences of opinion that shall naturally exist in a public university community. 27
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The requirements prescribed under divisions (A) (2) (a) to (d) of this section shall take priority over any other bylaws adopted by the center. 32
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(3) The board of trustees of the university may change the name of the center in accordance with the philanthropic naming policies and practices of the university. 35
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(B) (1) The center shall be an independent academic unit of the university with the authority to house tenure-track faculty who hold appointments within the center. Faculty appointed to the center shall not be required, but may, hold joint appointments within any other division of the university. The board of trustees of the university shall allot not fewer than fifteen tenure-track faculty positions to teach under the center. 38
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(2) Employment contracts for all tenure-track faculty appointed to the center shall guarantee reappointment elsewhere in the university, at the same rank and compensation, in the 46
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event that the center is discontinued. 49

(C) (1) The center shall offer instruction in all of the 50
following: 51

(a) The books and major debates which form the 52
intellectual foundation of free societies, especially that of 53
the United States; 54

(b) The principles, ideals, and institutions of the 55
American constitutional order; 56

(c) The foundations of responsible leadership and informed 57
citizenship. 58

(2) The center also shall focus on both of the following: 59

(a) Offering university-wide programming related to the 60
values of free speech and civil discourse; 61

(b) Expanding the intellectual diversity of the 62
university's academic community. 63

(D) (1) Not later than sixty days after the effective date 64
of this section, the talent, compensation, and governance 65
committee of the board of trustees of the university, if such a 66
committee exists, shall appoint, with the advice and consent of 67
the senate, a seven-member Chase center academic council. If no 68
such committee exists, the board of trustees shall appoint 69
members under this division. 70

(2) The academic council shall be comprised of scholars 71
with relevant expertise and experience. Not more than one member 72
of the council may be an employee of the university. Not less 73
than three members of the advisory board shall be from Ohio. 74

(3) Three members of the academic council shall serve 75

initial terms of two years and four members shall serve initial 76
terms of four years, which the members shall determine at their 77
first meeting, and select replacements for vacant seats. 78

(E)(1) The academic council established under division (D) 79
of this section shall conduct a nationwide search for the 80
director of the center. The academic council shall submit to the 81
president of the university a list of finalists from which the 82
president shall select and appoint a director, subject to the 83
approval of the talent, compensation, and governance committee 84
of the university board of trustees, or if no such committee 85
exists, by the board of trustees. 86

(2) The director shall have the protection of tenure or 87
tenure eligibility and report directly to the provost and the 88
president of the university. 89

(3) The director shall hire all faculty and staff of the 90
center and shall oversee the development of the center's 91
curriculum. The center shall be granted the authority to offer 92
courses and develop certificate, minor, and major programs as 93
well as graduate programs. 94

Sec. 3364.07. (A) The institute of American constitutional 95
thought and leadership is established for the purpose of 96
creating and disseminating knowledge about American 97
constitutional thought and to form future leaders of the legal 98
profession through research, scholarship, teaching, 99
collaboration, and mentorship. The institute shall be an 100
academic unit within the university of Toledo, initially located 101
at the college of law. The university shall require the college 102
of law to provide adequate administrative space for the 103
institute. 104

<u>(B) The institute shall pursue all of the following goals:</u>	105
<u>(1) To enrich the curriculum in American constitutional studies, including the core texts and great debates of western civilization;</u>	106 107 108
<u>(2) To educate university students in the principles, ideals, and institutions of the American constitutional order;</u>	109 110
<u>(3) To educate university students in the foundations of responsible leadership and informed citizenship and to cultivate the next generation of leaders in the legal profession;</u>	111 112 113
<u>(4) To offer university-wide programming related to the values of open inquiry and civil discourse;</u>	114 115
<u>(5) To expand the intellectual diversity of the university's academic community and to create a rich forum for the development of ideas across the political and ideological spectrum;</u>	116 117 118 119
<u>(6) To support faculty and graduate student scholarship that advances understanding of American constitutional thought and institutions;</u>	120 121 122
<u>(7) To promote scholarly collaboration within the university and beyond;</u>	123 124
<u>(8) To host lectures, debates, and symposia, and sponsor visiting scholars, jurists, and teachers.</u>	125 126
<u>(C) The institute shall adhere to the following policies:</u>	127
<u>(1) The institute shall educate students by means of free, open, and rigorous intellectual inquiry to seek the truth.</u>	128 129
<u>(2) The institute shall equip students with the skills, habits, and dispositions of mind they need to reach their own</u>	130 131

informed conclusions on matters of legal, social, and political 132
importance. 133

(3) The institute shall value intellectual diversity in 134
higher education, including in faculty recruitment, hiring, and 135
appointment, and aspire to enhance the intellectual diversity of 136
academic life at the university. 137

(4) The institute shall create a community dedicated to an 138
ethic of civil and free inquiry, which respects the intellectual 139
freedom of each member, supports individual capacities for 140
growth, and welcomes the differences of opinion that naturally 141
occur in a public university community. 142

(D) (1) Not later than sixty days after the effective date 143
of this section, the talent, compensation, and governance 144
committee of the board of trustees of the university, if such a 145
committee exists, shall appoint, with the advice and consent of 146
the senate, a seven-member institute academic council. If no 147
such committee exists, the board of trustees shall appoint 148
members under this division. 149

(2) The academic council shall be comprised of scholars 150
with relevant expertise and experience. Not more than one member 151
of the council may be an employee of the university. Not less 152
than three members of the council shall be from Ohio. 153

(3) Three members of the academic council shall serve 154
initial terms of two years and four members shall serve initial 155
terms of four years, which the members shall determine at their 156
first meeting, and select replacements for vacant seats. 157

(E) (1) The institute shall be led by a director who shall 158
report directly to the president and provost of the university 159
and consult with the dean of the college of law. The president 160

of the university shall appoint a director not later than thirty 161
days after the effective date of this section. The director 162
shall be an expert of the western tradition, the American 163
founding, and American constitutional thought, and shall have 164
shown a commitment to the purposes, goals, and policies of the 165
institute. The director's term shall be for five years and shall 166
be renewable. 167

(2) The director shall have the protection of tenure or 168
tenure eligibility. Any existing tenure from the university held 169
by a director shall be transferred and maintained. 170

(F) The institute shall be an independent academic unit of 171
the university with the authority to house tenure-track faculty 172
who hold their appointments within the institute. Faculty 173
appointed within the institute shall not be required, but may be 174
permitted, to hold joint or courtesy appointments within any 175
other division of the university. 176

(G) The director shall hire and appoint all faculty and 177
staff of the institute and shall supervise all of the 178
institute's activities. The institute shall have the ability to 179
offer courses and develop certificate, minor, major, and 180
graduate programs. 181

(H) The board of trustees of the university may change the 182
name of the institute in accordance with the philanthropic 183
naming policies and practices of the university. 184

Section 2. All items in this act are hereby appropriated 185
as designated out of any moneys in the state treasury to the 186
credit of the designated fund. For all operating appropriations 187
made in this act, those in the first column are for fiscal year 188
2024 and those in the second column are for fiscal year 2025. 189

The operating appropriations made in this act are in addition to 190
any other operating appropriations made for these fiscal years. 191

Section 3. 192

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A	BOR DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION			
B	General Revenue Fund			
C	GRF 235533	Program and Project Support	\$6,000,000	\$7,000,000
D	TOTAL GRF General Revenue Fund		\$6,000,000	\$7,000,000
E	TOTAL ALL BUDGET FUND GROUPS		\$6,000,000	\$7,000,000

PROGRAM AND PROJECT SUPPORT 194

Of the foregoing appropriation item 235533, Program and 195
Project Support, \$5,000,000 in each fiscal year shall be 196
distributed to The Ohio State University to support the Salmon 197
P. Chase Center for Civics, Culture, and Society established 198
under section 3335.39 of the Revised Code. 199

Of the foregoing appropriation item 235533, Program and 200
Project Support, \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$2,000,000 201
in fiscal year 2025 shall be distributed to the University of 202
Toledo to support the Institute of American Constitutional 203
Thought and Leadership established under section 3364.07 of the 204
Revised Code. 205

Section 4. Within the limits set forth in this act, the 206
Director of Budget and Management shall establish accounts 207

indicating the source and amount of funds for each appropriation 208
made in this act, and shall determine the manner in which 209
appropriation accounts shall be maintained. Expenditures from 210
operating appropriations contained in this act shall be 211
accounted for as though made in, and are subject to all 212
applicable provisions of, the main operating appropriations act 213
of the 135th General Assembly. 214