As Introduced

136th General Assembly
Regular Session
2025-2026

H. B. No. 1044

Representative McClain

To enact section 9.77 of the Revised Code to prohibit state agencies from using the word "free" to describe grants and programs funded from the general revenue fund.

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

Section 1. That section 9.77 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

Sec. 9.77. (A) As used in this section:

"Public communication" means any communication by a state agency, or an official or employee of a state agency in the official's or employee's official capacity, to the public, and includes the state agency's web site, flyers, and other literature.

"State agency" means an organized body, office, agency, institution, or other entity established by the laws of the state for the exercise of a function of state government. "State agency" does not include a political subdivision or an agency of a political subdivision, nor any state institution of higher education as defined in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code.

"Taxpayer funded program" means any program, grant, service, or other benefit provided to the public by a state

agency that is funded in whole or in part with money from the state's general revenue fund.

(B) No state agency, or official or employee of a state agency, shall use the word "free" in any public communication to describe or explain a taxpayer funded program.

(C) State agencies shall update or remove existing public communications that are in violation of this section within six months of the effective date of this section.