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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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H.B. 255
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Jarrells and M. Miller

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SUMMARY

- Creates the Ohio Sports Commission, consisting of a board of commissioners, to enhance the quality of life in Ohio through the attraction, promotion, and development of national and international sports.
- Creates the Ohio Sports Commission Fund, to be used to support the Commission and to provide grants to public and private entities that fulfill the stated purpose of the Commission.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Ohio Sports Commission

The bill creates the Ohio Sports Commission with the stated purpose of enhancing the quality of life in Ohio through the attraction, promotion, and development of national and international sports. The Commission is within the Department of Development and consists of a board of commissioners. The Commission's primary function is to partner and coordinate with convention and visitor bureaus, chambers of commerce, municipal corporations, sports organizations, venues, and appropriate stakeholders to attract and host major sporting events that enhance Ohio's economy and image.¹

Board of commissioners

The board of commissioners of the Ohio Sports Commission, consisting of 17 members, must do the following:

- Study the promotion and development of sports tourism in Ohio;

¹ R.C. 122.97.

- Partner and communicate with private and public stakeholders to attract sports events to Ohio;
- Develop policy recommendations for the General Assembly, Governor, and local governments;
- Study the establishment of a new grant program to support emerging sports economies throughout Ohio, including a funding source for the program; and
- Within six months after the bill takes effect, issue a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor, Senate President, and Speaker of the House.²

The Department of Development must provide the board with office space and meeting areas. The board can appoint employees as necessary.³

Membership

The board of commissioners consists of the following 17 members, reflecting Ohio's diversity:

- The Governor, or a designee;
- The Director of Development, or a designee;
- Four members of the General Assembly, who must be appointed within the first 30 days of a General Assembly and who serve only while still serving in the General Assembly:
 - One member of the Senate majority party appointed by the Senate President;
 - One member of the Senate minority party appointed by the Senate Minority Leader;
 - One member of the House majority party appointed by the Speaker of the House;
 - One member of the House minority party appointed by the House Minority Leader.
- Eleven members appointed by the Governor, with six serving an initial term of two years (thereafter, four years) and five serving terms of four years:
 - One member of an organization in Ohio that represents student athletes;
 - One member of an organization in Ohio that represents professional athletes;
 - One member that represents convention and visitors' bureaus in Ohio;
 - Four members that represent local sports commissions throughout Ohio, recommended by sports commissions throughout Ohio;
 - Two members that represent private stakeholders in the sports industry or tourism industries in Ohio; and

² R.C. 122.971(A).

³ R.C. 122.971(D).

- Two members that represent athletes in Ohio.

Vacancies are filled in the same manner as the original appointment. The members serve without compensation and are reimbursed for the actual and necessary expenses incurred performing their official duties. The board meets at the call of the chairperson, who must be elected at the first meeting and biannually thereafter. A majority of members constitutes a quorum, and at least nine members are necessary to take official action.⁴

Ohio Sports Commission Fund

The bill creates the Ohio Sports Commission Fund to be used by the Commission in performing its duties. The fund consists of money credited or transferred to it and grants, gifts, and contributions made directly to it. Money in the fund must be used to defray costs incurred by the Commission in fulfilling its duties.⁵

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	05-06-25

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⁴ R.C. 122.971(B), (C), and (E).

⁵ R.C. 122.972.