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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

H.B. 291  
136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. T. Mathews and Santucci

Christopher Glass, Attorney

### SUMMARY

- Creates the Ohio International Trade Commission.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### Commission objectives

The bill creates the Ohio International Trade Commission. The Commission is created to advance economic cooperation between Ohio and Japan, Ireland, Israel, and two other nations to be designated by the Director of Development. Specific objectives include advancing the following:

- Multilateral trade and investment;
- Joint research agreements, particularly with Israel;
- Business and academic exchanges;
- Creation of technology centers;
- Mutual economic support and infrastructure investment;
- Other issues to be determined by the Commission.<sup>1</sup>

#### Commission structure and membership

The Commission consists of 14 members: three from each legislative chamber, appointed by the respective leader of each chamber, and eight appointed by and with the mutual consent of the Director of Development and Adjutant General, with the advice and consent of the Senate.

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 122.97(A)(1) through (7).

The latter eight appointees represent JobsOhio and the interests of the Commission's designated member nations.<sup>2</sup>

Initial members must be appointed within 90 days of the bill's effective date. The six legislative members serve terms of two years, while the eight other members serve four-year terms. The JobsOhio Board of Directors is tasked with choosing the Commission's chairperson from among the Commission members. Members serve without compensation.

The Commission must meet and hold hearings at the places it designates throughout Ohio. Within 15 months of the bill's effective date, and annually thereafter, the Commission must issue a report on its activities to the Governor and the leader of each legislative chamber.<sup>3</sup>

## Commission funding

The bill permits the Commission to raise funds through direct solicitation or other fund-raising events, and allows the Commission to accept gifts, grants, and bequests, to be deposited in the Ohio International Trade Commission Fund, which the bill creates. Funds must be used to defray the Commission's administrative expenses and to carry out its mission.<sup>4</sup>

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## HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	05-20-25

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<sup>2</sup> R.C. 122.97(B).

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 122.97(C) through (F).

<sup>4</sup> R.C. 122.97(G).