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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Office

H.B. 291
(1_136_0373-1)
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 291's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: In House Development

Primary Sponsors: Reps. T. Mathews and Santucci

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The purpose of the Ohio International Trade Commission created in the bill is to advance multilateral trade and investment and conduct research with selected nations and Ohio, including the creation of an international trade center.
- The bill creates the Ohio International Trade Commission Fund in the state treasury. Any money in the fund may be used by the Commission to defray administrative costs and carry out its specified duties under the bill.

Detailed Analysis

The Ohio International Trade Commission created by the bill consists of specified members who are to serve without compensation. In particular, the bill requires the Commission to investigate trade links with Japan, Israel, and Ireland. In addition, the Director of Development would be responsible for designating two other countries, and then updating this list of countries every four years. The membership includes two Senate appointees, two House of Representative appointees, five appointed by mutual consent of the other designated nonvoting members, and other designated individuals. Although Commission members serve without compensation, they would be entitled to reimbursement for necessary and actual costs related to their duties under the bill.

The bill requires the Commission to meet and hold hearings throughout the state on the promotion and development of international trade. The bill also requires the Commission to submit a report of its activities to the Governor, Senate President, and House Speaker 15 months after the bill's effective date and annually thereafter.

The bill creates the Ohio International Trade Commission Fund in the state treasury, consisting of fundraising proceeds, gifts, grants, and other bequests from private and public

sources. The bill permits the Commission to use this fund to defray administrative expenses and to carry out its responsibilities. The bill, however, does not appropriate any funding for this purpose.

Synopsis of Fiscal Effect Changes

The substitute bill (L_136_0373-1) alters the membership of the Commission and slightly expands its mission by requiring it to investigate opening an international trade center to foster collaboration between countries represented by the Commission. None of these changes has any direct fiscal effect.