

I\_136\_0264-2

136th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2025-2026

Sub. H. B. No. 292

To enact sections 113.052, 122.98, and 122.981 of  
the Revised Code to establish the Ohio Defense  
Commission.

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

**Section 1.** That sections 113.052, 122.98, and 122.981 of  
the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

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**Sec. 113.052.** Any revenue from interest earned on bonds of  
the State of Israel, whenever such bonds exist in the state  
treasury, shall be deposited, by the treasurer of state, into  
the Ohio defense fund established in section 122.98 of the  
Revised Code.

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**Sec. 122.98.** (A) The Ohio defense commission is created.  
The commission shall consider strategies to promote the defense  
industry in this state.

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(B) The duties of the Ohio defense commission include the  
following:

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(1) Administering the defense industry expansion program  
under section 122.981 of the Revised Code;

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<u>(2) Administering and approving the expenditure of money</u>	18
<u>from the Ohio defense fund in compliance with this section;</u>	19
<u>(3) Studying and developing comprehensive strategies to</u>	20
<u>promote the defense industry throughout the state;</u>	21
<u>(4) Encouraging communication and resource-sharing among</u>	22
<u>individuals and organizations involved in the defense industry,</u>	23
<u>including business, the military, and academia;</u>	24
<u>(5) Preparing the state for favorable outcomes related to</u>	25
<u>federal military base realignment and closure processes;</u>	26
<u>(6) Recruiting international businesses to invest in the</u>	27
<u>state for defense industry purposes;</u>	28
<u>(7) Promoting research, development, and manufacturing of</u>	29
<u>technology to counter unmanned aerial vehicle systems in the</u>	30
<u>state;</u>	31
<u>(8) Considering policies intended to improve quality of</u>	32
<u>life for service members and veterans.</u>	33
<u>(C) The Ohio defense commission shall consist of the</u>	34
<u>following members:</u>	35
<u>(1) The adjutant general, to serve ex officio as a</u>	36
<u>nonvoting member;</u>	37
<u>(2) One member from the office of the governor, appointed</u>	38
<u>by the governor, to serve as a nonvoting member;</u>	39
<u>(3) The chief investment officer of the nonprofit</u>	40
<u>corporation formed under section 187.01 of the Revised Code, or</u>	41
<u>the officer's designee, to serve as a nonvoting member;</u>	42
<u>(4) One member of the Ohio congressional delegation,</u>	43
<u>appointed by the governor, to serve as a nonvoting member;</u>	44

(5) One member to represent the Ohio chamber of commerce, 45  
appointed by the governor, to serve as a nonvoting member; 46

(6) Three members of the senate, two of whom shall be 47  
appointed by the president of the senate and one of whom shall 48  
be appointed by the minority leader of the senate; 49

(7) Three members of the house of representatives, two of 50  
whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of 51  
representatives and one of whom shall be appointed by the 52  
minority leader of the house of representatives; 53

(8) Seven individuals to represent various regions of the 54  
state, appointed in accordance with division (D) of this 55  
section. 56

(D) The members of the general assembly, who are members 57  
of the commission, shall, by vote, appoint seven individuals to 58  
the commission to respectively represent each of the seven 59  
unique regions of this state as identified by the nonprofit 60  
corporation formed under section 187.01 of the Revised Code. The 61  
members of the commission appointed under division (C)(1) to (C) 62  
(7) of this section shall recommend individuals qualified to 63  
represent the regions. 64

(E) The commission members appointed under divisions (C) 65  
(5) and (8) of this section shall be paid the rate established 66  
pursuant to division (J) of section 124.15 of the Revised Code. 67  
All other members of the commission are not entitled to 68  
compensation. All commission members are entitled to their 69  
actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of 70  
their duties as such members, payable from the appropriations 71  
for the commission. 72

(F) Appointed commission members shall serve two year 73

terms. Members of the general assembly who are appointed to the 74  
commission shall serve on the commission for the duration of the 75  
member's legislative term. Members may be reappointed. A member 76  
may be removed from service on the commission by the member's 77  
appointing authority. Vacancies shall be filled in the manner of 78  
the original appointment. 79

(G) The speaker of the house of representatives shall 80  
select a member of the commission, who is a member of the house 81  
of representatives, to call the first meeting of the commission, 82  
at which members of the commission shall select a chairperson. 83  
The commission shall meet at least once per month. 84

(H) The commission may consult with members of the Ohio 85  
congressional delegation and may invite members of the 86  
delegation to speak before the commission or to participate in 87  
commission meetings. Members of congress who participate in 88  
commission meetings serve in a nonvoting capacity. 89

(I) The commission shall compile an annual report of its 90  
activities, findings, and recommendations and shall furnish a 91  
copy of the report to the governor, president of the senate, and 92  
speaker of the house of representatives not later than the 93  
thirty-first day of December of each year. 94

(J) The Ohio defense fund is created in the state 95  
treasury. The fund shall consist of money appropriated to it by 96  
the general assembly, revenue from interest earned on bonds 97  
under section 113.052 of the Revised Code, all grants, gifts, 98  
and contributions made to the director of development and 99  
designated for purposes of the Ohio defense commission, and 100  
investment earnings on money in the fund, which shall be 101  
credited to the fund. 102

Money in the fund shall be expended to support the 103  
development and construction of facilities including, but not 104  
limited to, sensitive compartmented information facilities 105  
(SCIFs), for processing sensitive or classified information; the 106  
development of defense related government contracts for small 107  
businesses; and for advocating and matching of grant programs to 108  
promote state defense military projects. 109

**Sec. 122.981.** (A) The Ohio defense commission shall 110  
administer a defense industry expansion program under which the 111  
commission may make grants to support economic development 112  
related to the defense industry. 113

(B) The commission shall adopt rules in accordance with 114  
Chapter 119. of the Revised Code that are necessary for the 115  
administration of the defense industry expansion program. The 116  
rules shall establish all of the following: 117

(1) An application form and procedures governing the 118  
process for applying to receive a grant under the program; 119

(2) The maximum grant amount allowed under the program, 120  
and the maximum portion of the total estimated project cost that 121  
shall be funded by the grant; 122

(3) Any other procedures, criteria, or grant terms that 123  
the commission determines necessary to administer the program. 124