

As Introduced

136th General Assembly

Regular Session

2025-2026

H. B. No. 292

Representatives Mathews, T., Santucci

**Cosponsors: Representatives Fischer, Newman, Click, Hoops, Hall, T., Deeter,
Workman**

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>(C) The Ohio defense commission shall consist of the</u>	32
<u>following members:</u>	33
<u>(1) The chief investment officer of the nonprofit</u>	34
<u>corporation formed under section 187.01 of the Revised Code, or</u>	35
<u>the officer's designee, as a nonvoting member;</u>	36
<u>(2) One member representing industries that support the</u>	37
<u>military or federal sector of this state as a nonvoting member,</u>	38
<u>appointed by the governor;</u>	39
<u>(3) One member to represent the Ohio chamber of commerce,</u>	40
<u>appointed by the governor;</u>	41
<u>(4) One member of the senate, appointed by the president</u>	42
<u>of the senate;</u>	43
<u>(5) One member of the house of representatives, appointed</u>	44

by the speaker of the house of representatives; 45

(6) One member from the office of the governor as a 46
nonvoting member, appointed by the governor. 47

(D) The commission members appointed under divisions (C) 48
(2) and (C) (3) of this section shall be paid the rate 49
established pursuant to division (J) of section 124.15 of the 50
Revised Code. All other members of the commission are not 51
entitled to compensation. All commission members are entitled to 52
their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance 53
of their duties as such members, payable from the appropriations 54
for the commission. 55

(E) Commission members who are appointed by the governor 56
shall serve two year terms. The legislative members of the 57
commission shall serve on the commission for the duration of the 58
member's legislative term. Members may be reappointed. A member 59
may be removed from service on the commission by the member's 60
appointing authority. Vacancies shall be filled in the manner of 61
the original appointment. 62

(F) The member of the commission who is a member of the 63
house of representatives shall call the first meeting of the 64
commission, at which members of the commission shall select a 65
chairperson. The commission shall meet at least once per month. 66

(G) The commission may consult with members of the Ohio 67
congressional delegation and may invite members of the 68
delegation to speak before the commission or to participate in 69
commission meetings. Members of congress who participate in 70
commission meetings serve in a nonvoting capacity. 71

(H) The commission shall compile an annual report of its 72
activities, findings, and recommendations and shall furnish a 73

copy of the report to the governor, president of the senate, and 74
speaker of the house of representatives not later than the 75
thirty-first day of December of each year. 76

(I) The department of development shall provide office 77
space and facilities for the commission. Administrative costs 78
associated with the operation of the commission or with any 79
program or activity administered by the commission shall be paid 80
from amounts appropriated to the commission or to the department 81
for such purposes. 82

(J) (1) The Ohio defense fund is created in the state 83
treasury. The fund shall consist of money appropriated to it by 84
the general assembly, revenue from interest earned on bonds 85
under section 113.052 of the Revised Code, all grants, gifts, 86
and contributions made to the director of development and 87
designated for purposes of the Ohio defense commission, and 88
investment earnings on money in the fund, which shall be 89
credited to the fund. 90

(2) Approximately one-third of the money in the fund shall 91
be expended to support each of the following: 92

(a) The development and construction of facilities 93
including, but not limited to, sensitive compartmented 94
information facilities (SCIFs), for processing sensitive or 95
classified information; 96

(b) The development of defense related government 97
contracts for small businesses; 98

(c) Advocating and matching of grant programs to promote 99
state defense military projects. 100

(K) The Ohio defense commission shall establish a defense 101
business incubator to support startup and early-stage companies 102

with research and technology. The incubator facility shall 103
include a laboratory and workspaces for academic, government, 104
military, and private sector use. The facility also shall 105
include an enclosed area to serve as a sensitive compartmented 106
information facility (SCIF). 107

Sec. 122.981. (A) The Ohio defense commission shall 108
administer a defense industry expansion program under which the 109
commission may make grants to support economic development 110
related to the defense industry. 111

(B) The commission shall adopt rules in accordance with 112
Chapter 119. of the Revised Code that are necessary for the 113
administration of the defense industry expansion program. The 114
rules shall establish all of the following: 115

(1) An application form and procedures governing the 116
process for applying to receive a grant under the program; 117

(2) The maximum grant amount allowed under the program, 118
and the maximum portion of the total estimated project cost that 119
shall be funded by the grant; 120

(3) Any other procedures, criteria, or grant terms that 121
the commission determines necessary to administer the program. 122