

**As Introduced**

**136th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2025-2026**

**H. B. No. 91**

**Representatives Odioso, Deeter**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Synenberg, Sigrist, Brownlee, Dovilla, Brennan,  
Williams, Sweeney, Robb Blasdel**

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**A BILL**

To enact section 3333.802 of the Revised Code to 1  
establish the Traumatic Brain Injury Treatment 2  
Accelerator Program and to make an 3  
appropriation. 4

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

**Section 1.** That section 3333.802 of the Revised Code be 5  
enacted to read as follows: 6

**Sec. 3333.802.** (A) The traumatic brain injury treatment 7  
accelerator program is created in the department of higher 8  
education. The aim of the program is to advance scientific 9  
research about, and to develop treatments for, traumatic brain 10  
injuries and to promote this state as a biohub for traumatic 11  
brain injury research. 12

(B) The brain injury research foundation shall administer 13  
the program on behalf of the department and shall conduct the 14  
program as a public-private partnership. 15

(1) As part of its duties, the foundation shall coordinate 16  
and award grants to entities, including universities, to support 17

traumatic brain injury research. To be eligible for an award 18  
under the program, each entity partner shall demonstrate to the 19  
foundation that it will match the foundation's award with an 20  
equal amount awarded to it from one or more other sources, which 21  
may include institutions, private foundations, or the federal 22  
government. Each entity partner awarded a grant under this 23  
section shall conduct the funded project only in this state. 24

(2) On an annual basis, the foundation shall prepare a 25  
report detailing the program's progress and shall submit copies 26  
of the report to all of the following individuals: the governor; 27  
the directors of the departments of aging, developmental 28  
disabilities, education and workforce, health, mental health and 29  
addiction services, public safety, and veterans services; the 30  
chancellor of higher education; the medicaid director; the 31  
administrator of workers' compensation; the members of the brain 32  
injury advisory committee; and the chief medical officer of each 33  
medical center operated by the U.S. department of veterans 34  
affairs in this state. The foundation also shall submit copies 35  
to the general assembly in accordance with section 101.68 of the 36  
Revised Code. 37

(3) The foundation shall annually commission a certified 38  
public accounting firm to conduct an independent audit of the 39  
program. The results of the audit shall be provided to the 40  
auditor of state. 41

(4) The foundation shall regularly report to the director 42  
of the traumatic brain injury treatment accelerator program 43  
oversight review board about the progress of funded projects, 44  
including outcomes achieved and any challenges encountered. 45

(5) The foundation shall provide the traumatic brain 46  
injury treatment accelerator program oversight review board 47

access to its grants management software system as described in 48  
division (C) (1) (b) of this section. 49

(C) The chancellor of higher education shall attempt to 50  
avoid redundant traumatic brain injury research, shall ensure 51  
transparency and accountability in the use of program funds, and 52  
shall take appropriate measures to address any instances of 53  
fraud, waste, or abuse. As part of those duties, the chancellor 54  
shall establish the traumatic brain injury treatment accelerator 55  
program oversight review board to provide guidance to the 56  
foundation and to oversee the program's implementation and its 57  
responsible allocation of funds. 58

(1) The review board shall be charged with the following 59  
duties: 60

(a) Overseeing the foundation's operations; 61

(b) Tracking the alignment, milestones, and progress of 62  
research projects in the foundation's grants management software 63  
system; 64

(c) Ensuring that the foundation's process for awarding 65  
grants is fair and transparent and complies with relevant 66  
regulations; 67

(d) Performing an internal audit to ensure that the 68  
program uses its resources in an economical, efficient, and 69  
effective manner. 70

(2) The review board shall consist of not less than five 71  
and not more than thirteen members, each appointed by the 72  
chancellor. In making appointments, the chancellor shall 73  
consider an individual's experience and shall ensure that the 74  
review board includes all of the following as members: 75

(a) At least one individual affiliated with a university 76  
that enrolls fewer than five thousand students; 77

(b) At least one individual affiliated with a university 78  
that enrolls between five thousand and ten thousand students; 79

(c) At least one individual affiliated with a university 80  
that enrolls between ten thousand and twenty thousand students; 81

(d) At least one individual affiliated with a university 82  
that enrolls more than twenty thousand students; 83

(e) At least one stakeholder advocate. 84

The chancellor also shall attempt to ensure that any 85  
remaining appointments consist of individuals who are either 86  
educators or health care providers within the traumatic brain 87  
injury field. 88

Of the initial appointments, half of the members shall 89  
serve terms of two years and the remaining half shall serve 90  
terms of three years. Thereafter, each membership term shall be 91  
for two years. Members may be reappointed, and vacancies shall 92  
be filled in the manner provided for original appointments. Any 93  
member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the 94  
expiration date of the term for which the member's predecessor 95  
was appointed shall hold office as a member for the remainder of 96  
that term. 97

Members shall not be compensated for serving on the review 98  
board, but shall be reimbursed for ordinary travel expenses, 99  
including meals and lodging incurred in the performance of their 100  
duties. 101

The review board shall elect, by a majority vote, a 102  
director to preside at all meetings and to coordinate the 103

functions and activities of the board. The director shall serve 104  
as the review board's primary contact with the foundation. 105

A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum. 106  
The review board shall meet at least three times per year, but 107  
may meet at other times, as deemed necessary, subject to the 108  
call of the director or by request of a majority of its members. 109

The board shall provide on a periodic basis 110  
recommendations to the foundation regarding the program's 111  
assessed strengths and weaknesses. 112

The board may establish any organizational structure it 113  
determines necessary to accomplish its functions and duties. The 114  
board shall be attached to the department of higher education 115  
for administrative purposes. 116

**Section 2.** All items in this act are hereby appropriated 117  
as designated out of any moneys in the state treasury to the 118  
credit of the designated fund. For all operating appropriations 119  
made in this act, those in the first column are for fiscal year 120  
2026 and those in the second column are for fiscal year 2027. 121  
The operating appropriations made in this act are in addition to 122  
any other operating appropriations made for these fiscal years. 123

**Section 3.** 124  
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A	BOR DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION				
B	General Revenue Fund				
C	GRF	2354A1	TBI Treatment Accelerator Program	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000

D	TOTAL GRF General Revenue Fund	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
E	TOTAL ALL BUDGET FUND GROUPS	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000

TBI TREATMENT ACCELERATOR PROGRAM 126

The foregoing appropriation item 2354A1, TBI Treatment Accelerator Program, shall be used by the Chancellor of Higher Education for the Traumatic Brain Injury Treatment Accelerator Program pursuant to section 3333.802 of the Revised Code. 127  
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**Section 4.** Within the limits set forth in this act, the Director of Budget and Management shall establish accounts indicating the source and amount of funds for each appropriation made in this act, and shall determine the manner in which appropriation accounts shall be maintained. Expenditures from operating appropriations contained in this act shall be accounted for as though made in, and are subject to all applicable provisions of, the main operating appropriations act of the 136th General Assembly. 131  
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