

**As Introduced**

**136th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2025-2026**

**S. B. No. 461**

**Senator Cirino**

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To amend sections 3335.39, 3339.06, 3344.07, 1  
3345.382, 3345.58, 3352.16, and 3364.07 of the 2  
Revised Code to enact the Strengthening Ohio 3  
Civics Act regarding American civics literacy 4  
courses and the operation of academic civics 5  
centers. 6

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

**Section 1.** That sections 3335.39, 3339.06, 3344.07, 7  
3345.382, 3345.58, 3352.16, and 3364.07 of the Revised Code be 8  
amended to read as follows: 9

**Sec. 3335.39.** (A) (1) The Salmon P. Chase center for 10  
civics, culture, and society is established as an independent 11  
academic unit within the Ohio state university. The center shall 12  
have all the rights and privileges of an independent college of 13  
the university. The center shall conduct teaching and research 14  
in the historical ideas, traditions, and texts that have shaped 15  
the American constitutional order and society. 16

(2) The center shall establish bylaws requiring the center 17  
to do all of the following: 18

(a) Educate students by means of free, open, and rigorous 19  
intellectual inquiry to seek the truth; 20

(b) Affirm its duty to equip students with the skills, 21  
habits, and dispositions of mind they need to reach their own 22  
informed conclusions on matters of social and political 23  
importance; 24

(c) Affirm the value of intellectual diversity in higher 25  
education and aspire to enhance the intellectual diversity of 26  
the university; 27

(d) Affirm a commitment to create a community dedicated to 28  
an ethic of civil and free inquiry, which respects the 29  
intellectual freedom of each member, supports individual 30  
capacities for growth, and welcomes the differences of opinion 31  
that shall naturally exist in a public university community. 32

The requirements prescribed under divisions (A) (2) (a) to 33  
(d) of this section shall take priority over any other bylaws 34  
adopted by the center. 35

(3) Beginning January 1, 2027, the Salmon P. Chase center 36  
for civics, culture, and society shall be known as the Salmon P. 37  
Chase school for civics, culture, and society, and the director 38  
shall serve as dean of the school. On and after that date, 39  
whenever the term "center" is used, referred to, or designated 40  
in any statute, rule, contract, grant, or other document, the 41  
use, reference, or designation shall be construed to mean the 42  
"school" unless another section of law expressly provides 43  
otherwise. 44

(4) The board of trustees of the university may change the 45  
name of the center in accordance with the philanthropic naming 46  
policies and practices of the university. 47

(B) (1) The center shall be an independent academic unit 48  
with the authority to house tenure-track faculty who hold their 49

appointments within the center. Faculty appointed to the center 50  
shall not be required, but may, hold joint appointments within 51  
any other division of the university. Not fewer than fifteen 52  
tenure-track faculty positions shall be allotted to teach under 53  
the center. No faculty outside of the center shall have the 54  
authority to block faculty hires into the center. No faculty 55  
outside of the center shall have a role in center faculty 56  
promotion and tenure, except with the consent of the director. 57

(2) The university shall provide adequate and appropriate 58  
space for the center as jointly determined by the director and 59  
either the president or provost of the university. The 60  
university shall not charge or assess overhead or indirect fees, 61  
costs, expenses, or charges to the center. 62

Nothing in this section precludes the ability for the 63  
center to apply for external funding opportunities and negotiate 64  
overhead charges as jointly determined by the director and 65  
either the president or provost of the university. 66

(3) The university shall provide adequate annual financial 67  
resources to the center to achieve its mission, as determined by 68  
the director. The sum of the annual money transferred from the 69  
university to the center plus the annual appropriation from the 70  
state to the center shall not be less than the highest annual 71  
appropriation provided by the state to the center in a main 72  
operating appropriation act. 73

(4) Notwithstanding any university budget allocation 74  
methodology to the contrary, the center shall receive all 75  
tuition and other revenue from all of the courses it offers, 76  
subject only to charges applied to all other academic units. 77

(5) The center shall have the authority to create 78

independent endowments, both temporary and permanent, and a 79  
foundation for the sole benefit of the center and place funds 80  
from whatever source, including gifts, donations, grants, 81  
university funds and state appropriations, in such endowments. 82

(C) (1) The center shall offer instruction in all of the 83  
following: 84

(a) The books and major debates which form the 85  
intellectual foundation of free societies, especially that of 86  
the United States; 87

(b) The principles, ideals, and institutions of the 88  
American constitutional order; 89

(c) The foundations of responsible leadership and informed 90  
citizenship. 91

(2) The center also shall focus on both of the following: 92

(a) Offering university-wide programming related to the 93  
values of free speech and civil discourse; 94

(b) Expanding the intellectual diversity of the 95  
university's academic community. 96

(D) (1) The board of trustees of the university shall 97  
appoint, with the advice and consent of the senate, a seven- 98  
member Chase center academic council. An initial member shall 99  
not begin service until confirmed by the senate. Four members 100  
shall form a quorum. 101

(2) The academic council shall be comprised of scholars 102  
with relevant expertise and experience. Not more than one member 103  
of the council may be an employee of the university. Best 104  
efforts shall be made to have not fewer than three members of 105  
the advisory board be from Ohio. 106

(3) Three members of the academic council shall serve 107  
initial terms of two years and four members shall serve initial 108  
terms of four years, which the members shall determine at their 109  
first meeting, and select replacements for vacant seats. 110

(E) (1) The academic council established under division (D) 111  
of this section shall conduct a nationwide search for candidates 112  
for the director of the center and shall strictly adhere to all 113  
relevant state and federal laws. The academic council shall 114  
submit to the president of the university a list of finalists 115  
from which the president shall select and appoint a director, 116  
subject to approval by the board of trustees. Future directors 117  
shall be chosen in the same manner. 118

(2) The director shall have the protection of tenure or 119  
tenure eligibility. The director shall report directly to the 120  
provost or the president of the university. 121

(3) The director shall have the sole and exclusive 122  
authority to manage all aspects of the recruitment and hiring 123  
process and to extend offers for employment for and to hire all 124  
faculty and staff, and to terminate employment of all staff. The 125  
director's authority includes determining the salary, tenure, 126  
and rank of faculty. The director may seek advice from faculty 127  
outside of the center but shall not be required to seek or 128  
receive such advice. The director shall have the sole, 129  
exclusive, and unlimited authority to oversee, develop, and 130  
approve the center's curriculum, including ~~approval which~~ of the 131  
center's courses ~~that~~ the director, in the director's sole and 132  
exclusive discretion, determines meet the university's general 133  
education requirements. The center shall ~~be granted~~ have the 134  
authority to offer courses independently and develop 135  
certificate, minor, and major programs as well as graduate 136

programs, and offer degrees. 137

~~(F)~~(F) (1) The director of the center shall submit an 138  
annual report to the board of trustees of the university and the 139  
general assembly in accordance with section 101.68 of the 140  
Revised Code. The report shall provide a full account of the 141  
center's achievements, opportunities, challenges, and obstacles 142  
in the development of this academic unit. 143

(2) The president or provost of the university shall 144  
report to the board of trustees at every board meeting on the 145  
progress of the center toward achieving its mission and the 146  
university's support for the center, including its academic 147  
program development, faculty and staff hiring, facility, and 148  
development and advancement. 149

**Sec. 3339.06.** (A) (1) The Miami university center for 150  
civics, culture, and society is established as an independent 151  
academic unit within Miami university. The center shall have all 152  
the rights and privileges of an independent college of the 153  
university. The center shall conduct teaching and research in 154  
the historical ideas, traditions, and texts that have shaped the 155  
American constitutional order and society. 156

(2) The center shall establish bylaws requiring the center 157  
to do all of the following: 158

(a) Educate students by means of free, open, and rigorous 159  
intellectual inquiry to seek the truth; 160

(b) Affirm its duty to equip students with the skills, 161  
habits, and dispositions of mind they need to reach their own 162  
informed conclusions on matters of social and political 163  
importance; 164

(c) Affirm the value of intellectual diversity in higher 165

education and aspire to enhance the intellectual diversity of 166  
the university; 167

(d) Affirm a commitment to create a community dedicated to 168  
an ethic of civil and free inquiry, which respects the 169  
intellectual freedom of each member, supports individual 170  
capacities for growth, and welcomes the differences of opinion 171  
that shall naturally exist in a public university community. 172

The requirements prescribed under divisions (A) (2) (a) to 173  
(d) of this section shall take priority over any other bylaws 174  
adopted by the center. 175

(3) The board of trustees of the university may name the 176  
center in accordance with the philanthropic naming policies and 177  
practices of the university. 178

(B) (1) The center shall be an independent academic unit 179  
physically located at the college of arts and sciences with the 180  
authority to house tenure-track faculty who hold their 181  
appointments within the center. Faculty appointed to the center 182  
shall not be required, but may, hold joint appointments within 183  
any other division of the university. Not fewer than ten tenure- 184  
track faculty positions shall be allotted to teach under the 185  
center. No faculty outside of the center shall have the 186  
authority to block faculty hires into the center. No faculty 187  
outside of the center shall have a role in center faculty 188  
promotion and tenure, except with the consent of the director. 189

(2) The university shall provide adequate and appropriate 190  
space for the center as jointly determined by the director and 191  
either the president or provost of the university. The 192  
university shall not charge or assess overhead or indirect fees, 193  
costs, expenses, or charges to the center. 194

Nothing in this section precludes the ability for the 195  
center to apply for external funding opportunities and negotiate 196  
overhead charges as jointly determined by the director and 197  
either the president or provost of the university. 198

(3) The university shall provide adequate annual financial 199  
resources to the center to achieve its mission as determined by 200  
the director. The sum of the annual money transferred from the 201  
university to the center plus the annual appropriation from the 202  
state to the center shall not be less than the highest annual 203  
appropriation provided by the state to the center in a main 204  
operating appropriation act. 205

(4) Notwithstanding any university budget allocation 206  
methodology to the contrary, the center shall receive all 207  
tuition and other revenue from all of the courses it offers, 208  
subject only to charges applied to all other academic units. 209

(5) The center shall have the authority to create 210  
independent endowments, both temporary and permanent, and a 211  
foundation for the sole benefit of the center and place funds 212  
from whatever source, including gifts, donations, grants, 213  
university funds and state appropriations, in such endowments. 214

(C) (1) The center shall offer instruction in all of the 215  
following: 216

(a) The books and major debates which form the 217  
intellectual foundation of free societies, especially that of 218  
the United States; 219

(b) The principles, ideals, and institutions of the 220  
American constitutional order; 221

(c) The foundations of responsible leadership and informed 222  
citizenship. 223

(2) The center also shall focus on both of the following:	224
(a) Offering university-wide programming related to the values of free speech and civil discourse;	225 226
(b) Expanding the intellectual diversity of the university's academic community.	227 228
(D) (1) The board of trustees of the university shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the senate, a seven-member center academic council. An initial member shall not begin service until confirmed by the senate. Four members shall form a quorum.	229 230 231 232 233
(2) The academic council shall be comprised of scholars with relevant expertise and experience. Not more than one member of the council may be an employee of the university. Best efforts shall be made to have not fewer than three members of the advisory board be from Ohio.	234 235 236 237 238
(3) Three members of the academic council shall serve initial terms of two years and four members shall serve initial terms of four years, which the members shall determine at their first meeting, and select replacements for vacant seats.	239 240 241 242
(E) (1) The academic council established under division (D) of this section shall conduct a nationwide search for candidates for the director of the center and shall strictly adhere to all relevant state and federal laws. The academic council shall submit to the president of the university a list of finalists from which the president shall select and appoint a director, subject to approval by the board of trustees. Future directors shall be chosen in the same manner.	243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250
(2) The director shall have the protection of tenure or tenure eligibility. The director shall report directly to the	251 252

provost or the president of the university. 253

(3) The director shall have the sole and exclusive 254  
authority to manage all aspects of the recruitment and hiring 255  
process and to extend offers for employment for and to hire all 256  
faculty and staff of the center, and to terminate employment of 257  
all staff. The director's authority includes determining the 258  
salary, tenure, and rank of faculty. The director may seek 259  
advice from faculty outside of the center but shall not be 260  
required to seek or receive such advice. The director shall have 261  
the sole, exclusive, and unlimited authority to oversee, 262  
develop, and approve the center's curriculum, including ~~approval~~ 263  
which of the center's courses ~~that~~ the director, in the 264  
director's sole and exclusive discretion, determines meet the 265  
university's general education requirements. The center shall ~~be~~ 266  
~~granted~~ have the authority to offer courses independently and 267  
develop certificate, minor, and major programs as well as 268  
graduate programs, and offer degrees. 269

~~(F)~~ (F) (1) The director of the center shall submit an 270  
annual report to the board of trustees of the university and the 271  
general assembly in accordance with section 101.68 of the 272  
Revised Code. The report shall provide a full account of the 273  
center's achievements, opportunities, challenges, and obstacles 274  
in the development of this academic unit. 275

(2) The president or provost of the university shall 276  
report to the board of trustees at every board meeting on the 277  
progress of the center toward achieving its mission and the 278  
university's support for the center, including its academic 279  
program development, faculty and staff hiring, facility, and 280  
development and advancement. 281

**Sec. 3344.07.** (A) (1) The Cleveland state university center 282

for civics, culture, and society is established as an 283  
independent academic unit within Cleveland state university. The 284  
center shall have all the rights and privileges of an 285  
independent college of the university. The center shall conduct 286  
teaching and research in the historical ideas, traditions, and 287  
texts that have shaped the American constitutional order and 288  
society. 289

(2) The center shall establish bylaws requiring the center 290  
to do all of the following: 291

(a) Educate students by means of free, open, and rigorous 292  
intellectual inquiry to seek the truth; 293

(b) Affirm its duty to equip students with the skills, 294  
habits, and dispositions of mind they need to reach their own 295  
informed conclusions on matters of social and political 296  
importance; 297

(c) Affirm the value of intellectual diversity in higher 298  
education and aspire to enhance the intellectual diversity of 299  
the university; 300

(d) Affirm a commitment to create a community dedicated to 301  
an ethic of civil and free inquiry, which respects the 302  
intellectual freedom of each member, supports individual 303  
capacities for growth, and welcomes the differences of opinion 304  
that shall naturally exist in a public university community. 305

The requirements prescribed under divisions (A) (2) (a) to 306  
(d) of this section shall take priority over any other bylaws 307  
adopted by the center. 308

(3) The board of trustees of the university may name the 309  
center in accordance with the philanthropic naming policies and 310  
practices of the university. 311

(B) (1) The center shall be an independent academic unit 312  
physically located at the college of public affairs and 313  
education with the authority to house tenure-track faculty who 314  
hold their appointments within the center. Faculty appointed to 315  
the center shall not be required, but may, hold joint 316  
appointments within any other division of the university. Not 317  
fewer than ten tenure-track faculty positions shall be allotted 318  
to teach under the center. No faculty outside of the center 319  
shall have the authority to block faculty hires into the center. 320  
No faculty outside of the center shall have a role in center 321  
faculty promotion and tenure, except with the consent of the 322  
director. 323

(2) The university shall provide adequate and appropriate 324  
space for the center as jointly determined by the director and 325  
either the president or provost of the university. The 326  
university shall not charge or assess overhead or indirect fees, 327  
costs, expenses, or charges to the center. 328

Nothing in this section precludes the ability for the 329  
center to apply for external funding opportunities and negotiate 330  
overhead charges as jointly determined by the director and 331  
either the president or provost of the university. 332

(3) The university shall provide adequate annual financial 333  
resources to the center to achieve its mission, as determined by 334  
the director. The sum of the annual money transferred from the 335  
university to the center plus the annual appropriation from the 336  
state to the center shall not be less than the highest annual 337  
appropriation provided by the state to the center in a main 338  
operating appropriation act. 339

(4) Notwithstanding any university budget allocation 340  
methodology to the contrary, the center shall receive all 341

tuition and other revenue from all of the courses it offers, 342  
subject only to charges applied to all other academic units. 343

(5) The center shall have the authority to create 344  
independent endowments, both temporary and permanent, and a 345  
foundation for the sole benefit of the center and place funds 346  
from whatever source, including gifts, donations, grants, 347  
university funds and state appropriations, in such endowments. 348

(C) (1) The center shall offer instruction in all of the 349  
following: 350

(a) The books and major debates which form the 351  
intellectual foundation of free societies, especially that of 352  
the United States; 353

(b) The principles, ideals, and institutions of the 354  
American constitutional order; 355

(c) The foundations of responsible leadership and informed 356  
citizenship. 357

(2) The center also shall focus on both of the following: 358

(a) Offering university-wide programming related to the 359  
values of free speech and civil discourse; 360

(b) Expanding the intellectual diversity of the 361  
university's academic community. 362

(D) (1) The board of trustees of the university shall 363  
appoint, with the advice and consent of the senate, a seven- 364  
member center academic council. An initial member shall not 365  
begin service until confirmed by the senate. Four members shall 366  
form a quorum. 367

(2) The academic council shall be comprised of scholars 368

with relevant expertise and experience. Not more than one member 369  
of the council may be an employee of the university. Best 370  
efforts shall be made to have not fewer than three members of 371  
the advisory board be from Ohio. 372

(3) Three members of the academic council shall serve 373  
initial terms of two years and four members shall serve initial 374  
terms of four years, which the members shall determine at their 375  
first meeting, and select replacements for vacant seats. 376

(E) (1) The academic council established under division (D) 377  
of this section shall conduct a nationwide search for candidates 378  
for the director of the center and shall strictly adhere to all 379  
relevant state and federal laws. The academic council shall 380  
submit to the president of the university a list of finalists 381  
from which the president shall select and appoint a director, 382  
subject to approval by the board of trustees. Future directors 383  
shall be chosen in the same manner. 384

(2) The director shall have the protection of tenure or 385  
tenure eligibility. The director shall report directly to the 386  
provost or the president of the university. 387

(3) The director shall have the sole and exclusive 388  
authority to manage all aspects of the recruitment and hiring 389  
process and to extend offers for employment for and to hire all 390  
faculty and staff of the center, and to terminate employment of 391  
all staff. The director's authority includes determining the 392  
salary, tenure, and rank of faculty. The director may seek 393  
advice from faculty outside of the center but shall not be 394  
required to seek or receive such advice. The director shall have 395  
the sole, exclusive, and unlimited authority to oversee, 396  
develop, and approve the center's curriculum, including approval 397  
which of the center's courses ~~that~~ the director, in the 398

director's sole and exclusive discretion, determines meet the 399  
university's general education requirements. The center shall ~~be~~ 400  
~~granted~~ have the authority to offer courses independently and 401  
develop certificate, minor, and major programs as well as 402  
graduate programs, and offer degrees. 403

~~(F)~~ (F) (1) The director of the center shall submit an 404  
annual report to the board of trustees of the university and the 405  
general assembly in accordance with section 101.68 of the 406  
Revised Code. The report shall provide a full account of the 407  
center's achievements, opportunities, challenges, and obstacles 408  
in the development of this academic unit. 409

(2) The president or provost of the university shall 410  
report to the board of trustees at every board meeting on the 411  
progress of the center toward achieving its mission and the 412  
university's support for the center, including its academic 413  
program development, faculty and staff hiring, facility, and 414  
development and advancement. 415

**Sec. 3345.382.** (A) As used in this section, ~~"state":~~ 416

(1) "Academic civics center" means one of the academic 417  
civic centers as defined in section 3345.58 of the Revised Code. 418

(2) "College credit plus program" means the college credit 419  
plus program established under Chapter 3365. of the Revised 420  
Code. 421

(3) "Ohio civics board" means the Ohio civics board 422  
established under section 3345.58 of the Revised Code. 423

(4) "State institution of higher education" has the same 424  
meaning as in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code. 425

(B) This division is subject to division (F) of this 426

<u>section.</u>	427
Each state institution of higher education shall develop a	428
course with not fewer than three credit hours in the subject	429
area of American civic literacy. The course shall include a	430
study of the American economic system and capitalism. The course	431
shall comply with the criteria, policies, and procedures	432
established under section 3333.16 of the Revised Code. The	433
course may be offered under the college credit plus program-	434
<del>established under Chapter 3365. of the Revised Code.</del> The course	435
shall, at a minimum, require each student to read all the	436
following:	437
(1) The entire Constitution of the United States;	438
(2) The entire Declaration of Independence;	439
(3) A minimum of five essays in their entirety from the	440
Federalist Papers. The essays shall be selected by the	441
department chair.	442
(4) The entire Emancipation Proclamation;	443
(5) The entire Gettysburg Address;	444
(6) The entire Letter from Birmingham Jail written by Dr.	445
Martin Luther King Jr;	446
(7) The writings of Adam Smith, including a study of the	447
principles written in The Wealth of Nations.	448
Any student who takes the course shall be required to pass	449
a cumulative final examination at the conclusion of the course	450
that assesses student proficiency about the documents described	451
in divisions (B)(1) to (7) of this section.	452
Each state institution of higher education board of	453

trustees shall adopt a resolution approving a plan to offer the 454  
course developed under this section. Each state institution 455  
shall submit that plan to the chancellor of higher education. 456  
The chancellor shall review and approve each plan. Prior to 457  
approving a plan, the chancellor may require a state institution 458  
to revise the plan and the course. 459

Each state institution of higher education board of 460  
trustees also shall adopt a resolution specifying the conditions 461  
under which the state institution's president or designee may 462  
exempt a student under division (D) (3) of this section. 463

(C) Beginning with students who graduate from a state 464  
institution of higher education in the spring semester, or 465  
equivalent quarter, of the 2029-2030 academic year, no state 466  
institution of higher education shall grant a bachelor's degree 467  
to any student unless the student completes a course described 468  
in division (B) of this section. A state institution may require 469  
students to complete the course as part of the institution's 470  
general education courses of study. 471

(D) This division is subject to division (F) of this 472  
section. 473

The president of a state institution of higher education, 474  
or the president's designee, may exempt a student from the 475  
requirement to complete a course described in division (B) of 476  
this section, if the president or designee determines that the 477  
student has completed at least one of the following: 478

(1) A course offered under the college credit plus program 479  
established under Chapter 3365. of the Revised Code that 480  
satisfies the content requirements described in division (B) of 481  
this section and is approved by the chancellor; 482

(2) An advanced placement course and examination that 483  
satisfy the content requirements described in division (B) of 484  
this section and are approved by the chancellor, and the student 485  
receives a score of three or higher on that examination; 486

(3) At least three credit hours, or the equivalent, in a 487  
course in the subject area of American history or American 488  
government which includes the study of the documents described 489  
in divisions (B)(1) to (7) of this section. 490

Division (D)(3) of this section does not apply after the 491  
2030-2031 academic year. 492

(E) This section does not apply to associate's degree 493  
programs. 494

(F) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this 495  
section, beginning with the 2027-2028 academic year, all of the 496  
following apply: 497

(1) The Ohio civics board has sole and exclusive authority 498  
over all aspects of American civic literacy courses established 499  
under this section, including course modality, syllabi, class 500  
size, faculty teachers, and course content. 501

(2) American civic literacy courses offered by a state 502  
institution are subject to the approval of the board. The board 503  
may adopt standard, uniform, or model American civic literacy 504  
courses for use, exclusive or otherwise, in the board's 505  
judgment, in state institutions. 506

(3) In each state institution that has an academic civics 507  
center, the civics center, or its designee, shall be the 508  
exclusive provider of any American civic literacy course in that 509  
institution. The academic civics center that provides an 510  
American civic literacy course shall receive the tuition, state 511

share of instruction, and all other standard revenues associated 512  
with that course in the state institution. The academic civics 513  
center may designate providers of the American civic literacy 514  
course in its institution on such terms and conditions, as 515  
determined by the center's director. 516

(4) In each state institution that does not have an 517  
academic civics center, the institution shall utilize an 518  
American civic literacy course approved by the Ohio civics 519  
board. Such a state institution may contract with an academic 520  
civics center for the center to offer the course at the 521  
institution. 522

(5) The Ohio civics board has sole and exclusive authority 523  
over any American civic literacy class offered under the college 524  
credit plus program. The board shall determine whether and under 525  
what conditions such a course shall be offered. The board may 526  
license and authorize the offering of such a course on terms and 527  
conditions identified by the board. 528

**Sec. 3345.58.** (A) As used in this section: 529

(1) "Academic civics centers" means the following 530  
institutes or centers: 531

(a) The center at the Ohio state university established 532  
under section 3335.39 of the Revised Code; 533

(b) The center at Miami university established under 534  
section 3339.06 of the Revised Code; 535

(c) The center at Cleveland state university established 536  
under section 3344.07 of the Revised Code; 537

(d) The center at Wright state university established 538  
under section 3352.16 of the Revised Code; 539

(e) The institute at the university of Toledo established	540
under section 3364.07 of the Revised Code.	541
(2) "State institution of higher education" has the same	542
meaning as in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code.	543
<del>(B)</del> (B) (1) The Ohio civics board is established. The board	544
shall consist of the directors of the academic civics centers,	545
who shall serve as ex officio members. If an academic civics	546
center does not have a director, then the center's acting or	547
interim director shall serve on behalf of that center until a	548
director is selected. No additional appointment or confirmation	549
by any authority is required for membership.	550
<u>(2) The board may hire, fix the compensation of, and</u>	551
<u>remove a director and such number of employees as the board</u>	552
<u>determines necessary.</u>	553
(C) The board shall do all of the following:	554
(1) Support the academic civics centers to more	555
effectively pursue their mission of teaching and research in the	556
historical ideas, traditions, and texts that have shaped the	557
American and Ohio constitutional order and society;	558
(2) Aid voluntary cooperation and coordination between the	559
academic civics centers, including coordinating intercollegiate	560
efforts and initiatives among the centers to promote	561
collaboration and serve the entire state of Ohio;	562
(3) Advise the general assembly and chancellor of higher	563
education on matters pertaining to civic education, including	564
best practices, program development, and statewide initiatives	565
to enhance civic literacy and engagement;	566
(4) Advise the general assembly and chancellor on	567

curriculum development and standards in state institutions of 568  
higher education and primary and secondary public education 569  
providers, and on the operations of the academic civics centers; 570

(5) Assist the academic councils of the academic civics 571  
centers in fulfilling their statutory duties, including 572  
facilitating the selection process for directors of each center; 573

(6) Beginning with the 2027-2028 academic year, exercise 574  
sole and exclusive authority over all aspects of American civic 575  
literacy courses established under section 3345.382 of the 576  
Revised Code, including course modality, syllabi, class size, 577  
faculty teachers, and course content; 578

(7) Determine an annual amount to be contributed by each 579  
of the academic civics centers to support the board's 580  
operations. 581

(D) Each of the academic civics centers shall annually pay 582  
to the board the amount determined under division (C) (7) of this 583  
section in a form and manner determined by the board. 584

(E) The board shall annually elect a chairperson and vice- 585  
chairperson from among its members. The chairperson shall 586  
preside over meetings and serve as the primary liaison to the 587  
chancellor and the general assembly. The vice-chairperson shall 588  
perform the duties of the chairperson in the absence of the 589  
chairperson. 590

The board shall meet as necessary at the call of the 591  
chairperson or on the written request of three or more members 592  
of the board. The board shall meet at least twice annually. 593

A majority of the members of the board constitutes a 594  
quorum, and the votes of a majority of the quorum present are 595  
required to validate any action of the board, including 596

recommendations. 597

The members of the board shall serve without compensation, 598  
but each member shall be reimbursed for the member's actual and 599  
necessary expenses incurred in the performance of the member's 600  
official duties on the board. 601

~~(E)~~(F) The board shall submit an annual report to the 602  
general assembly and the chancellor not later than the first day 603  
of December each year. The report shall detail the board's 604  
activities, recommendations, and findings related to civic 605  
education, higher education curricula, primary and secondary 606  
public education curricula, and the operations of the academic 607  
civics centers. 608

~~(F)~~(G) The board, in consultation with the chancellor, may 609  
adopt rules under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code as necessary 610  
to implement this section. 611

**Sec. 3352.16.** (A) (1) The Wright state university center 612  
for civics, culture, and workforce development is established as 613  
an independent academic division within Wright state university, 614  
physically located on the Dayton campus of Wright state 615  
university. The center shall have all the rights and privileges 616  
of an independent college of the university. The center shall 617  
conduct teaching and research in the historical ideas, 618  
traditions, and texts that have shaped the American 619  
constitutional order and society and the United States armed 620  
forces. 621

(2) The center shall establish bylaws requiring the center 622  
to do all of the following: 623

(a) Educate students by means of free, open, and rigorous 624  
intellectual inquiry to seek the truth; 625

(b) Affirm its duty to equip students with the skills, 626  
habits, and dispositions of mind they need to reach their own 627  
informed conclusions on matters of social and political 628  
importance; 629

(c) Affirm the value of intellectual diversity in higher 630  
education and aspire to enhance the intellectual diversity of 631  
the university; 632

(d) Affirm a commitment to create a community dedicated to 633  
an ethic of civil and free inquiry, which respects the 634  
intellectual freedom of each member, supports individual 635  
capacities for growth, and welcomes the differences of opinion 636  
that shall naturally exist in a public university community. 637

The requirements prescribed under divisions (A) (2) (a) to 638  
(d) of this section shall take priority over any other bylaws 639  
adopted by the center. 640

(3) The board of trustees of the university may name the 641  
center in accordance with the philanthropic naming policies and 642  
practices of the university. 643

(B) (1) The center shall be an independent academic 644  
division, physically located on the Dayton campus of Wright 645  
state university, with the authority to house faculty who hold 646  
their appointments within the center. Faculty appointed to the 647  
center shall not be required, but may, hold joint appointments 648  
within any other division of the university. No faculty outside 649  
of the center shall have the authority to block faculty hires 650  
into the center. No faculty outside of the center shall have a 651  
role in center faculty promotion and tenure, except with the 652  
consent of the director. No university policy shall govern the 653  
development and approval of curriculum within the center. 654

(2) The university shall provide adequate and appropriate space for the center as jointly determined by the director and either the president or provost of the university. The university shall not charge or assess overhead or indirect fees, costs, expenses, or charges to the center.

Nothing in this section precludes the ability for the center to apply for external funding opportunities and negotiate overhead charges as jointly determined by the director and either the president or provost of the university.

(3) The university shall provide adequate annual financial resources to the center to achieve its mission, as determined by the director. The sum of the annual money transferred from the university to the center plus the annual appropriation from the state to the center shall not be less than the highest annual appropriation provided by the state to the center in a main operating appropriation act.

(4) Notwithstanding any university budget allocation methodology to the contrary, the center shall receive all tuition and other revenue from all of the courses it offers, subject only to charges applied to all other academic units.

(5) The center shall have the authority to create independent endowments, both temporary and permanent, and a foundation for the sole benefit of the center and place funds from whatever source, including gifts, donations, grants, university funds and state appropriations, in such endowments.

(C) (1) The center shall offer instruction in all of the following:

(a) The books and major debates which form the intellectual foundation of free societies, especially that of

the United States; 684

(b) The principles, ideals, and institutions of the 685  
American constitutional order, including the United States armed 686  
forces; 687

(c) The foundations of responsible leadership and informed 688  
citizenship; 689

(d) The origins, purpose, and role of Wright-Patterson air 690  
force base and surrounding defense-related industries in 691  
supporting the United States; 692

(e) The workforce needs of Wright-Patterson air force base 693  
and industries that support the base. 694

(2) The center also shall focus on all of the following: 695

(a) Offering university-wide programming related to the 696  
values of free speech and civil discourse; 697

(b) Expanding the intellectual diversity of the 698  
university's academic community; 699

(c) Increasing the awareness of Wright-Patterson air force 700  
base and supporting workforce needs to sustain and attract 701  
missions at the base. 702

(D) (1) The board of trustees of the university shall 703  
appoint, with the advice and consent of the senate, a seven- 704  
member center academic council. An initial member shall not 705  
begin service until confirmed by the senate. Four members shall 706  
form a quorum. 707

(2) The academic council shall be comprised of scholars 708  
with relevant expertise and experience. Not more than three 709  
members of the council may be employees of the university. Best 710

efforts shall be made to have not fewer than three members of 711  
the advisory board be from Ohio. 712

(3) Three members of the academic council shall serve 713  
initial terms of two years and four members shall serve initial 714  
terms of four years, which the members shall determine at their 715  
first meeting, and select replacements for vacant seats. 716

(E) (1) The academic council established under division (D) 717  
of this section shall conduct a nationwide search for candidates 718  
for the director of the center and shall strictly adhere to all 719  
relevant state and federal laws. The academic council shall 720  
submit to the president of the university a list of finalists 721  
from which the president shall select and appoint a director, 722  
subject to approval by the board of trustees. Future directors 723  
shall be chosen in the same manner. 724

(2) The director shall consult with the provost; however, 725  
the director shall report directly to the president of the 726  
university. 727

(3) The director shall have the sole and exclusive 728  
authority to manage all aspects of the recruitment and hiring 729  
process and to extend offers for employment for and to hire all 730  
faculty and staff of the center, and to terminate employment of 731  
all staff, subject to the approval of the board of trustees of 732  
the university. The director's authority includes determining 733  
the salary, tenure, and rank of faculty. The director may seek 734  
advice from faculty outside of the center but shall not be 735  
required to seek or receive such advice. The director shall have 736  
the sole, exclusive, and unlimited authority to oversee, 737  
develop, and approve the center's curriculum, including ~~approval~~ 738  
which of the center's courses that the director, in the 739  
director's sole and exclusive discretion, determines meet the 740

university's general education requirements. The center shall ~~be~~ 741  
~~granted~~ have the authority to offer courses independently and 742  
develop certificate, minor, and major programs as well as 743  
graduate programs, and offer degrees. 744

(4) Notwithstanding section 3333.164 of the Revised Code, 745  
the center shall develop a set of standards and procedures to 746  
maximize the granting of academic credit for military training, 747  
experience, and coursework. 748

(5) Notwithstanding section 3333.31 of the Revised Code, 749  
Wright state university shall not charge more than its in-state 750  
instructional and general fees to any current or honorably 751  
discharged member of the United States armed forces, or the 752  
spouse or dependents of such a member, who enrolls in a program 753  
offered by the center, regardless of whether that member, 754  
spouse, or dependent is a resident of this state under rules 755  
adopted under section 3333.31 of the Revised Code. 756

~~(F)~~ (F) (1) The director of the center shall submit an 757  
annual report to the board of trustees of the university and the 758  
general assembly in accordance with section 101.68 of the 759  
Revised Code. The report shall provide a full account of the 760  
center's achievements, opportunities, challenges, and obstacles 761  
in the development of this academic division. 762

(2) The president or provost of the university shall 763  
report to the board of trustees at every board meeting on the 764  
progress of the center toward achieving its mission and the 765  
university's support for the center, including its academic 766  
program development, faculty and staff hiring, facility, and 767  
development and advancement. 768

**Sec. 3364.07.** (A) (1) The institute of American 769

constitutional thought and leadership is established for the 770  
purpose of creating and disseminating knowledge about American 771  
constitutional thought ~~and to form future leaders of the legal-~~ 772  
~~profession~~ through research, scholarship, teaching, 773  
collaboration, and mentorship. The institute shall be an 774  
independent academic unit within the university of Toledo. The 775  
institute shall have all the rights and privileges of an 776  
independent college of the university. 777

(2) The university shall provide adequate and appropriate 778  
space for the institute as jointly determined by the director 779  
and either the president or provost of the university. The 780  
university shall not charge or assess overhead or indirect fees, 781  
costs, expenses, or charges to the institute. 782

Nothing in this section precludes the ability for the 783  
institute to apply for external funding opportunities and 784  
negotiate overhead charges as jointly determined by the director 785  
and either the president or provost of the university. 786

(3) The university shall provide adequate annual financial 787  
resources to the institute to achieve its mission, as determined 788  
by the director. The sum of the annual money transferred from 789  
the university to the institute plus the annual appropriation 790  
from the state to the institute shall not be less than the 791  
highest annual appropriation provided by the state to the 792  
institute in a main operating appropriation act. 793

(4) Notwithstanding any university budget allocation 794  
methodology to the contrary, the institute shall receive all 795  
tuition and other revenue from all of the courses it offers, 796  
subject only to charges applied to all other academic units. 797

(5) The institute shall have the authority to create 798

<u>independent endowments, both temporary and permanent, and a</u>	799
<u>foundation for the sole benefit of the institute and place funds</u>	800
<u>from whatever source, including gifts, donations, grants,</u>	801
<u>university funds and state appropriations, in such endowments.</u>	802
(B) The institute shall pursue all of the following goals:	803
(1) To enrich the curriculum in American constitutional	804
studies, including the core texts and great debates of western	805
civilization;	806
(2) To educate university students in the principles,	807
ideals, and institutions of the American and Ohio constitutional	808
order;	809
(3) To educate university students in the foundations of	810
responsible leadership and informed citizenship and to cultivate	811
the next generation of leaders in the legal profession;	812
(4) To offer university-wide programming related to the	813
values of open inquiry and civil discourse;	814
(5) To expand the intellectual diversity of the	815
university's academic community and to create a rich forum for	816
the development of ideas across the political and ideological	817
spectrum;	818
(6) To support faculty and graduate student scholarship	819
that advances understanding of American constitutional thought	820
and institutions;	821
(7) To promote scholarly collaboration within the	822
university and beyond;	823
(8) To host lectures, debates, and symposia, and sponsor	824
visiting scholars, jurists, and teachers.	825

(C) The institute shall adhere to the following policies:	826
(1) The institute shall educate students by means of free, open, and rigorous intellectual inquiry to seek the truth.	827 828
(2) The institute shall equip students with the skills, habits, and dispositions of mind they need to reach their own informed conclusions on matters of legal, social, and political importance.	829 830 831 832
(3) The institute shall value intellectual diversity in higher education, including in faculty recruitment, hiring, and appointment, and aspire to enhance the intellectual diversity of academic life at the university.	833 834 835 836
(4) The institute shall create a community dedicated to an ethic of civil and free inquiry, which respects the intellectual freedom of each member, supports individual capacities for growth, and welcomes the differences of opinion that naturally occur in a public university community.	837 838 839 840 841
(D) (1) The talent, compensation, and governance committee of the board of trustees of the university, if such a committee exists, shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the senate, a seven-member institute academic council. If no such committee exists, the board of trustees shall appoint members under this division. An initial member shall not begin service until confirmed by the senate. Four members shall form a quorum.	842 843 844 845 846 847 848
(2) The academic council shall be comprised of scholars with relevant expertise and experience. Not more than one member of the council may be an employee of the university. Best efforts shall be made to have not fewer than three members of the council be from Ohio.	849 850 851 852 853
(3) Three members of the academic council shall serve	854

initial terms of two years and four members shall serve initial 855  
terms of four years, which the members shall determine at their 856  
first meeting, and select replacements for vacant seats. 857

(4) To fill a vacancy for the institute director after the 858  
initial director, following a national search, the academic 859  
council shall transmit to the president a list of finalists from 860  
which the president shall select a director, subject to the 861  
approval of the talent, compensation, and governance committee 862  
of the board of trustees. 863

(E) (1) The institute shall be led by a director who shall 864  
report directly to the president and provost of the university. 865  
The president of the university shall appoint the director. The 866  
director shall be an expert of the western tradition, the 867  
American founding, and American constitutional thought, and 868  
shall have shown a commitment to the purposes, goals, and 869  
policies of the institute. The director's term shall be for five 870  
years and shall be renewable. 871

(2) The director shall have the protection of tenure or 872  
tenure eligibility. Any existing tenure with the university held 873  
by a director shall be maintained with the university. 874

(F) The institute shall be an independent academic unit of 875  
the university with the authority to house tenure-track faculty 876  
who hold their appointments within the institute. Not fewer than 877  
five tenure-track faculty positions shall be allotted to the 878  
institute. Faculty appointed within the institute shall not be 879  
required, but may be permitted, to hold joint or courtesy 880  
appointments within any other division of the university. No 881  
faculty from outside the institute shall have the authority to 882  
block faculty hires into the institute. No faculty outside of 883  
the institute shall have a role in institute faculty promotion 884

and tenure, except with the consent of the director. 885

(G) (1) The director shall have the sole and exclusive 886  
authority to manage all aspects of the recruitment and hiring 887  
process and to extend offers for employment and to hire for all 888  
faculty and staff, and to terminate employment of all staff. The 889  
director's authority includes determining the salary, tenure, 890  
and rank of faculty. The director may seek advice from faculty 891  
outside of the center but shall not be required to seek or 892  
receive such advice. The director shall have the sole, 893  
exclusive, and unlimited authority to oversee, develop, and 894  
approve the institute's curriculum, including ~~approval~~ which of 895  
the institute's courses ~~that~~ the director, in the director's 896  
sole and exclusive discretion, determines meet the university's 897  
general education requirements. The institute shall ~~be granted~~ 898  
have the authority to offer courses independently and develop 899  
certificate, minor, major, and graduate programs, and offer 900  
degrees. 901

(2) Employment contracts offered under division (G) (1) of 902  
this section to tenure-track faculty appointed to the institute 903  
shall guarantee reappointment elsewhere in the university, at 904  
the same rank and compensation, in the event the institute is 905  
discontinued. 906

~~(H)~~ (H) (1) The director of the institute shall submit an 907  
annual report to the board of trustees of the university and the 908  
general assembly in accordance with section 101.68 of the 909  
Revised Code. The report shall provide a full account of the 910  
institute's achievements, opportunities, challenges, and 911  
obstacles in the development of this academic unit. 912

(2) The president or provost of the university shall 913  
report to the board of trustees at every board meeting on the 914

progress of the center toward achieving its mission and the 915  
university's support for the center, including its academic 916  
program development, faculty and staff hiring, facility, and 917  
development and advancement. 918

~~(I)~~ (I) (1) Beginning January 1, 2027, the institute of 919  
American constitutional thought and leadership shall be known as 920  
the school of American constitutional thought and leadership, 921  
and the director shall serve as dean of the school. On and after 922  
that date, whenever the term "institute" is used, referred to, 923  
or designated in any statute, rule, contract, grant, or other 924  
document, the use, reference, or designation shall be construed 925  
to mean the "school" unless another section of law expressly 926  
provides otherwise. 927

(2) The board of trustees of the university may change the 928  
name of the institute in accordance with the philanthropic 929  
naming policies and practices of the university. 930

**Section 2.** That existing sections 3335.39, 3339.06, 931  
3344.07, 3345.382, 3345.58, 3352.16, and 3364.07 of the Revised 932  
Code are hereby repealed. 933

**Section 3.** This act shall be known as the Strengthening 934  
Ohio Civics Act. 935