

As Introduced

134th General Assembly

Regular Session

2021-2022

H. B. No. 609

Representative Sykes

Cosponsors: Representatives Blackshear, Galonski, Jarrells, Russo, Miranda, Lightbody, Smith, M., Humphrey, Sobecki, Lepore-Hagan, Smith, K., Miller, A., Liston, O'Brien, Ingram

A BILL

To amend section 121.30 and to enact sections 1
121.34, 121.341, and 121.342 of the Revised Code 2
to create the Women's Policy and Research 3
Commission and the Women's Policy and Research 4
Center, to specify their powers and duties, and 5
to make an appropriation. 6

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

Section 1. That section 121.30 be amended and sections 7
121.34, 121.341, and 121.342 of the Revised Code be enacted to 8
read as follows: 9

Sec. 121.30. As used in sections 121.30 to ~~121.34~~ 121.33 10
of the Revised Code, "Spanish-speaking people" means persons who 11
possess any of the following characteristics: 12

(A) Use Spanish as their primary language; 13

(B) Regard themselves as or are regarded in their 14
community as being of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central 15
American, South American, Spanish, or other Spanish-speaking 16

origin or descent. 17

Sec. 121.34. (A) There is the women's policy and research 18
commission to promote the advancement of women and remove 19
barriers to women's equality. The commission shall consist of 20
fifteen members. 21

(B) The governor shall appoint six members to represent 22
the public, not more than three of whom shall be members of the 23
same political party. Members appointed by the governor may 24
include, but are not limited to, persons who are active in and 25
knowledgeable about the following areas: health and human 26
services, education, business and industry, science and 27
technology, arts and culture, the promotion of social justice, 28
law and government, and volunteerism. The president and minority 29
leader of the senate each shall appoint one member of the 30
senate, and one nonlegislator member to represent the public. 31
The speaker and minority leader of the house of representatives 32
each shall appoint one member of the house of representatives, 33
and one nonlegislator member to represent the public. The 34
governor or the governor's designee shall be a member of the 35
commission. 36

Each member of the commission shall be an elector of this 37
state. At least two-thirds of the members of the commission 38
shall be women. The membership of the commission shall reflect 39
the diversity of this state's population with respect to age, 40
race, and ethnic background. The governor, the president and 41
minority leader of the senate, and the speaker and minority 42
leader of the house of representatives shall consult with 43
individuals and organizations that promote the advancement of 44
women to seek their recommendations of persons to serve as 45
public members of the commission. 46

Of the governor's initial appointments to the commission, 47
three shall be to terms that end one year after the effective 48
date of this section, two shall be to terms that end two years 49
after that date, and one shall be to a term that ends three 50
years after that date. The initial appointment of the public 51
member by the speaker of the house of representatives shall be 52
to a term that ends two years after the effective date of this 53
section, and the initial appointment of the public member by the 54
minority leader of the house of representatives shall be to a 55
term that ends three years after that date. The initial 56
appointment of the public member by the president of the senate 57
shall be to a term that ends two years after the effective date 58
of this section, and the initial appointment of the public 59
member by the minority leader of the senate shall be to a term 60
that ends three years after that date. Thereafter, the terms of 61
office of all public members shall be for three years, with each 62
term ending on the same day of the same month as did the term it 63
succeeds. 64

The speaker and minority leader of the house of 65
representatives and the president and minority leader of the 66
senate shall appoint the legislator members to the commission 67
within thirty days after the commencement of the first regular 68
session of each general assembly. These members shall serve on 69
the commission until their respective successors are appointed 70
or until they are no longer members of the general assembly. A 71
public member who has served two consecutive three-year terms on 72
the commission is ineligible for reappointment to the commission 73
until three years have passed since the end of the member's 74
second consecutive three-year term. A legislator member who has 75
served three consecutive terms on the commission is ineligible 76
for reappointment to the commission until two years have passed 77

since the end of the member's third consecutive term. Vacancies 78
shall be filled in the manner provided for original 79
appointments. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring 80
before the expiration date of the term for which a predecessor 81
was appointed shall hold office as a member for the remainder of 82
that term. A public member shall continue in office following 83
the expiration date of the member's term until a successor is 84
appointed or until a period of ninety days has elapsed, 85
whichever occurs first. 86

(C) Members of the commission shall receive no 87
compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses, 88
actually incurred in the conduct of their official business. 89

(D) The governor shall call the first meeting of the 90
commission within forty-five days after all commission members 91
have been appointed. Thereafter, the commission shall prescribe 92
the manner and the times at which commission meetings shall be 93
called, except that the commission shall meet at least four 94
times annually. The commission shall choose annually from among 95
its members a chair to preside over its meetings, a secretary to 96
keep a record of its proceedings, and such other officers as it 97
considers necessary. A majority of the members of the commission 98
constitutes a quorum. 99

Sec. 121.341. (A) The women's policy and research 100
commission shall do all of the following: 101

(1) Establish policies and procedures governing the 102
operation of the women's policy and research center established 103
under section 121.342 of the Revised Code; 104

(2) Employ an executive director for the center to 105
implement the policies and procedures established under division 106

<u>(A) (1) of this section;</u>	107
<u>(3) Furnish a written report of its activities for the</u>	108
<u>preceding calendar year, not later than the first day of</u>	109
<u>February of each year, to the governor, the president of the</u>	110
<u>senate, and the speaker of the house of representatives.</u>	111
<u>(B) The commission may do any of the following:</u>	112
<u>(1) Hold public hearings to assess the problems and needs</u>	113
<u>of women in this state;</u>	114
<u>(2) Create standing or special committees as needed. These</u>	115
<u>standing or special committees shall be chaired by a member of</u>	116
<u>the commission but may include members who are not members of</u>	117
<u>the commission.</u>	118
<u>(3) Sell publications issued by the commission or the</u>	119
<u>center;</u>	120
<u>(4) Accept gifts, donations, benefits, and other funds</u>	121
<u>from any public agency or private source to carry out any or all</u>	122
<u>of the commission's or center's powers or duties.</u>	123
<u>(C) All expenses incurred in carrying out this section and</u>	124
<u>sections 121.34 and 121.342 of the Revised Code are payable</u>	125
<u>solely from the funds of the commission.</u>	126
<u>(D) There is in the state treasury the women's policy and</u>	127
<u>research commission fund. All proceeds from the sale of</u>	128
<u>publications under division (B) (3) of this section and all</u>	129
<u>gifts, donations, benefits, and other funds received by the</u>	130
<u>commission under division (B) (4) of this section shall be</u>	131
<u>deposited in the fund.</u>	132
<u>Sec. 121.342. (A) There is the women's policy and research</u>	133
<u>center under the supervision of the women's policy and research</u>	134

<u>commission. The center shall do all of the following:</u>	135
<u>(1) Identify, through research, data collection, and</u>	136
<u>public hearings, barriers to women's equality;</u>	137
<u>(2) Maintain and make available to the appropriate</u>	138
<u>appointing authorities lists of persons qualified for</u>	139
<u>appointment to positions in state government;</u>	140
<u>(3) Educate the public on the status of women and on the</u>	141
<u>impact of public policy on women;</u>	142
<u>(4) Issue reports and recommendations to the executive and</u>	143
<u>legislative branches of state government and to the general</u>	144
<u>public regarding women's policy issues;</u>	145
<u>(5) Analyze current and proposed public policies to</u>	146
<u>determine their impact on women, and report the analysis to the</u>	147
<u>appropriate authorities;</u>	148
<u>(6) Help the public and private sectors develop programs</u>	149
<u>and services for women;</u>	150
<u>(7) Encourage collaboration between the center and other</u>	151
<u>public agencies and institutions on issues of mutual interest to</u>	152
<u>them.</u>	153
<u>(B) The executive director of the center shall appoint the</u>	154
<u>center's employees with the approval of the commission.</u>	155
Section 2. That existing section 121.30 of the Revised	156
Code is hereby repealed.	157
Section 3. All items in this act are hereby appropriated	158
as designated out of any moneys in the state treasury to the	159
credit of the designated fund. For all operating appropriations	160
made in this act, those in the first column are for fiscal year	161

2022 and those in the second column are for fiscal year 2023. 162
 The operating appropriations made in this act are in addition to 163
 any other operating appropriations made for the FY 2022-FY 2023 164
 biennium. 165

Section 4. 166

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	1	2	3	4	5
A	WPR WOMEN'S POLICY AND RESEARCH COMMISSION				
B	General Revenue Fund				
C	GRF	920400	Operating Expenses	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
D	TOTAL GRF General Revenue Fund			\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
E	TOTAL ALL BUDGET FUND GROUPS			\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000

Section 5. Within the limits set forth in this act, the 168
 Director of Budget and Management shall establish accounts 169
 indicating the source and amount of funds for each appropriation 170
 made in this act, and shall determine the form and manner in 171
 which appropriation accounts shall be maintained. Expenditures 172
 from operating appropriations contained in this act shall be 173
 accounted for as though made in the main operating 174
 appropriations act of the 134th General Assembly. The operating 175
 appropriations made in this act are subject to all provisions of 176
 the main operating appropriations act of the 134th General 177
 Assembly that are generally applicable to such appropriations. 178