

**As Reported by the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee**

**135th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2023-2024**

**Sub. S. B. No. 117**

**Senators Cirino, McColley**

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**A BILL**

To enact sections 3335.39 and 3364.07 of the  
Revised Code to establish the Salmon P. Chase  
Center for Civics, Culture, and Society at the  
Ohio State University, to establish the  
Institute of American Constitutional Thought and  
Leadership at the University of Toledo, and to  
make an appropriation.

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

**Section 1.** That sections 3335.39 and 3364.07 of the  
Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

**Sec. 3335.39.** (A) (1) The Salmon P. Chase center for  
civics, culture, and society is established as an independent  
unit within the Ohio state university, initially located in the  
college of public affairs. The center shall conduct teaching and  
research in the historical ideas, traditions, and texts that  
have shaped the American constitutional order and society.

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

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

(b) Affirm its duty to equip students with the skills, habits, and dispositions of mind they need to reach their own informed conclusions on matters of social and political importance; 20  
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(c) Affirm the value of intellectual diversity in higher education and aspire to enhance the intellectual diversity of the university; 24  
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(d) Affirm a commitment to 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 shall naturally exist in a public university community. 27  
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The requirements prescribed under divisions (A) (2) (a) to (d) of this section shall take priority over any other bylaws adopted by the center. 32  
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(3) The board of trustees of the university may change the name of the center in accordance with the philanthropic naming policies and practices of the university. 35  
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(B) The center shall be an independent unit of the college of public affairs with the authority to make appointments of faculty, including tenure-track faculty. Faculty appointed to the center shall not be required, but may, hold joint appointments within any other division of the university. Not fewer than fifteen tenure-track faculty positions shall be allotted to teach under the center. 38  
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(C) (1) The center shall offer instruction in all of the following: 45  
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(a) The books and major debates which form the intellectual foundation of free societies, especially that of 47  
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<u>the United States;</u>	49
<u>(b) The principles, ideals, and institutions of the</u>	50
<u>American constitutional order;</u>	51
<u>(c) The foundations of responsible leadership and informed</u>	52
<u>citizenship.</u>	53
<u>(2) The center also shall focus on both of the following:</u>	54
<u>(a) Offering university-wide programming related to the</u>	55
<u>values of free speech and civil discourse;</u>	56
<u>(b) Expanding the intellectual diversity of the</u>	57
<u>university's academic community.</u>	58
<u>(D) (1) Not later than sixty days after the effective date</u>	59
<u>of this section, the board of trustees of the university shall</u>	60
<u>appoint, with the advice and consent of the senate, a seven-</u>	61
<u>member Chase center academic council.</u>	62
<u>(2) The academic council shall be comprised of scholars</u>	63
<u>with relevant expertise and experience. Not more than one member</u>	64
<u>of the council may be an employee of the university. Not less</u>	65
<u>than three members of the advisory board shall be from Ohio.</u>	66
<u>(3) Three members of the academic council shall serve</u>	67
<u>initial terms of two years and four members shall serve initial</u>	68
<u>terms of four years, which the members shall determine at their</u>	69
<u>first meeting, and select replacements for vacant seats.</u>	70
<u>(E) (1) The academic council established under division (D)</u>	71
<u>of this section shall conduct a nationwide search for candidates</u>	72
<u>for the director of the center and shall strictly adhere to all</u>	73
<u>relevant state and federal laws. The academic council shall</u>	74
<u>submit to the president of the university a list of candidates</u>	75
<u>from which the president shall select and appoint a director,</u>	76

subject to approval by the board of trustees. 77

(2) The director shall have the protection of tenure or 78  
tenure eligibility. The director shall consult with the dean of 79  
the college of public affairs; however, the director shall 80  
report directly to the provost, vice-provost, or the president 81  
of the university. 82

(3) The director shall oversee the hiring process and have 83  
the authority to extend offers for employment or terminate 84  
employment for all faculty and staff of the center and shall 85  
oversee the development of the center's curriculum. The center 86  
shall be granted the authority to offer courses and develop 87  
certificate, minor, and major programs as well as graduate 88  
programs. 89

**Sec. 3364.07.** (A) The institute of American constitutional 90  
thought and leadership is established for the purpose of 91  
creating and disseminating knowledge about American 92  
constitutional thought and to form future leaders of the legal 93  
profession through research, scholarship, teaching, 94  
collaboration, and mentorship. The institute shall be an 95  
academic unit within the university of Toledo, initially located 96  
at the college of law. The university shall require the college 97  
of law to provide adequate administrative space for the 98  
institute. 99

(B) The institute shall pursue all of the following goals: 100

(1) To enrich the curriculum in American constitutional 101  
studies, including the core texts and great debates of western 102  
civilization; 103

(2) To educate university students in the principles, 104  
ideals, and institutions of the American and Ohio constitutional 105

<u>order;</u>	106
<u>(3) To educate university students in the foundations of</u>	107
<u>responsible leadership and informed citizenship and to cultivate</u>	108
<u>the next generation of leaders in the legal profession;</u>	109
<u>(4) To offer university-wide programming related to the</u>	110
<u>values of open inquiry and civil discourse;</u>	111
<u>(5) To expand the intellectual diversity of the</u>	112
<u>university's academic community and to create a rich forum for</u>	113
<u>the development of ideas across the political and ideological</u>	114
<u>spectrum;</u>	115
<u>(6) To support faculty and graduate student scholarship</u>	116
<u>that advances understanding of American constitutional thought</u>	117
<u>and institutions;</u>	118
<u>(7) To promote scholarly collaboration within the</u>	119
<u>university and beyond;</u>	120
<u>(8) To host lectures, debates, and symposia, and sponsor</u>	121
<u>visiting scholars, jurists, and teachers.</u>	122
<u>(C) The institute shall adhere to the following policies:</u>	123
<u>(1) The institute shall educate students by means of free,</u>	124
<u>open, and rigorous intellectual inquiry to seek the truth.</u>	125
<u>(2) The institute shall equip students with the skills,</u>	126
<u>habits, and dispositions of mind they need to reach their own</u>	127
<u>informed conclusions on matters of legal, social, and political</u>	128
<u>importance.</u>	129
<u>(3) The institute shall value intellectual diversity in</u>	130
<u>higher education, including in faculty recruitment, hiring, and</u>	131
<u>appointment, and aspire to enhance the intellectual diversity of</u>	132

academic life at the university. 133

(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. 134  
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(D) (1) Not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section, 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. 139  
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(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. Not less than three members of the council shall be from Ohio. 146  
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(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. 150  
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(4) To fill a vacancy for the institute director, following a national search, the academic council shall transmit to the president a list of finalists from which the president shall select a director, subject to the approval of the talent, compensation, and governance committee of the board of trustees. 154  
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(E) (1) The institute shall be led by a director who shall report directly to the president and provost of the university and consult with the dean of the college of law. The president 159  
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of the university shall appoint an initial director not later 162  
than thirty days after the effective date of this section. The 163  
director shall be an expert of the western tradition, the 164  
American founding, and American constitutional thought, and 165  
shall have shown a commitment to the purposes, goals, and 166  
policies of the institute. The director's term shall be for five 167  
years and shall be renewable. 168

(2) The director shall have the protection of tenure or 169  
tenure eligibility. Any existing tenure from the university held 170  
by a director shall be transferred and maintained. 171

(F) The institute shall be an independent academic unit of 172  
the university with the authority to house tenure-track faculty 173  
who hold their appointments within the institute. Faculty 174  
appointed within the institute shall not be required, but may be 175  
permitted, to hold joint or courtesy appointments within any 176  
other division of the university. 177

(G) The director shall hire and appoint all faculty and 178  
staff of the institute and shall supervise all of the 179  
institute's activities. The institute shall have the ability to 180  
offer courses and develop certificate, minor, major, and 181  
graduate programs. 182

(H) The board of trustees of the university may change the 183  
name of the institute in accordance with the philanthropic 184  
naming policies and practices of the university. 185

**Section 2.** All items in this act are hereby appropriated 186  
as designated out of any moneys in the state treasury to the 187  
credit of the designated fund. For all operating appropriations 188  
made in this act, those in the first column are for fiscal year 189  
2024 and those in the second column are for fiscal year 2025. 190

The operating appropriations made in this act are in addition to 191  
any other operating appropriations made for these fiscal years. 192

**Section 3.** 193

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A	BOR DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION			
B	General Revenue Fund			
C	GRF 235533	Program and Project Support	\$6,000,000	\$7,000,000
D	TOTAL GRF General Revenue Fund		\$6,000,000	\$7,000,000
E	TOTAL ALL BUDGET FUND GROUPS		\$6,000,000	\$7,000,000

PROGRAM AND PROJECT SUPPORT 195

Of the foregoing appropriation item 235533, Program and 196  
Project Support, \$5,000,000 in each fiscal year shall be 197  
distributed to The Ohio State University to support the Salmon 198  
P. Chase Center for Civics, Culture, and Society established 199  
under section 3335.39 of the Revised Code. 200

Of the foregoing appropriation item 235533, Program and 201  
Project Support, \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$2,000,000 202  
in fiscal year 2025 shall be distributed to the University of 203  
Toledo to support the Institute of American Constitutional 204  
Thought and Leadership established under section 3364.07 of the 205  
Revised Code. 206

**Section 4.** Within the limits set forth in this act, the 207  
Director of Budget and Management shall establish accounts 208



indicating the source and amount of funds for each appropriation 209  
made in this act, and shall determine the manner in which 210  
appropriation accounts shall be maintained. Expenditures from 211  
operating appropriations contained in this act shall be 212  
accounted for as though made in, and are subject to all 213  
applicable provisions of, the main operating appropriations act 214  
of the 135th General Assembly. 215