

As Reported by the House State Government Committee

**128th General Assembly
Regular Session
2009-2010**

H. B. No. 349

Representatives Weddington, Maag

**Cosponsors: Representatives Letson, Harris, Derickson, Gerberry, Stewart,
Belcher, Williams, B.**

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A B I L L

To amend sections 5101.34, 5101.341, and 5101.342 of 1
the Revised Code to revise the membership, 2
staffing, and duties of the Ohio Commission on 3
Fatherhood. 4

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

Section 1. That sections 5101.34, 5101.341, and 5101.342 of 5
the Revised Code be amended to read as follows: 6

Sec. 5101.34. (A) There is hereby created in the department 7
of job and family services the Ohio commission on fatherhood. The 8
commission shall consist of the following members: 9

(1)(a) Four members of the house of representatives appointed 10
by the speaker of the house, not more than two of whom are members 11
of the same political party. Two of the members must be from 12
legislative districts that include a county or part of a county 13
that is among the one-third of counties in this state with the 14
highest number per capita of households headed by females. 15

(b) Two members of the senate appointed by the president of 16
the senate, each from a different political party. One of the 17
members must be from a legislative district that includes a county 18

or part of a county that is among the one-third of counties in 19
this state with the highest number per capita of households headed 20
by females. 21

(2) The governor, or the governor's designee; 22

(3) One representative of the judicial branch of government 23
appointed by the chief justice of the supreme court; 24

(4) The directors of health, job and family services, 25
rehabilitation and correction, alcohol and drug addiction 26
services, and youth services and the superintendent of public 27
instruction, or their designees; 28

(5) The assistant director of job and family services in 29
charge of the office of child support created under section 30
3125.02 of the Revised Code, or the assistant director's designee; 31

(6) One representative of the Ohio family and children first 32
cabinet council created under section 121.37 of the Revised Code 33
appointed by the chairperson of the council; 34

~~(6)~~ (7) Seven representatives of the general public 35
appointed by the governor. These members shall have extensive 36
experience in issues related to fatherhood. 37

~~(B) The appointing authorities of the Ohio commission on~~ 38
~~fatherhood shall make initial appointments to the commission~~ 39
~~within thirty days after September 29, 1999. Of the initial~~ 40
~~appointments to the commission made pursuant to divisions (A)(3),~~ 41
~~(5), and (6) of this section, three of the members shall serve a~~ 42
~~term of one year and four shall serve a term of two years. Members~~ 43
~~so appointed subsequently pursuant to divisions (A)(3), (6), and~~ 44
~~(7) of this section shall serve two-year terms. A member appointed~~ 45
pursuant to division (A)(1) of this section shall serve on the 46
commission until the end of the general assembly from which the 47
member was appointed or until the member ceases to serve in the 48
chamber of the general assembly in which the member serves at the 49

time of appointment, whichever occurs first. The governor or the 50
governor's designee shall serve on the commission until the 51
governor ceases to be governor. The directors ~~and~~, superintendent, 52
and assistant director or their designees shall serve on the 53
commission until they cease, or the director ~~or~~, superintendent, 54
or assistant director a designee represents ceases, to be director 55
~~or~~, superintendent, or assistant director. Each member shall serve 56
on the commission from the date of appointment until the end of 57
the term for which the member was appointed. Members may be 58
reappointed. 59

Vacancies shall be filled in the manner provided for original 60
appointments. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring 61
prior to the expiration date of the term for which the member's 62
predecessor was appointed shall serve on the commission for the 63
remainder of that term. A member shall continue to serve on the 64
commission subsequent to the expiration date of the member's term 65
until the member's successor is appointed or until a period of 66
sixty days has elapsed, whichever occurs first. Members shall 67
serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for necessary 68
expenses. 69

Sec. 5101.341. ~~(A)~~ The Ohio commission on fatherhood annually 70
shall elect a chairperson from among its members. ~~The~~ 71

The commission shall employ an executive director and may 72
employ other staff as necessary for the commission to perform its 73
duties under section 5101.342 of the Revised Code. The executive 74
director and commission staff shall be in the unclassified civil 75
service and shall serve at the commission's pleasure. The 76
commission shall specify the duties and compensation of the 77
executive director and commission staff. The department of job and 78
family services shall provide other staff and other support 79
services for the commission. 80

~~(B)~~ The commission may accept gifts, grants, donations, 81
contributions, benefits, and other funds from any public agency or 82
private source to carry out any or all of the commission's duties. 83
The funds shall be deposited into the Ohio commission on 84
fatherhood fund, which is hereby created in the state treasury. 85
All gifts, grants, donations, contributions, benefits, and other 86
funds received by the commission pursuant to this division shall 87
be used solely to support the operations of the commission. 88

Sec. 5101.342. The Ohio commission on fatherhood shall do 89
~~both~~ all of the following: 90

(A) Organize a state summit on fatherhood once every ~~four~~ 91
~~years~~ two-year period that begins on the first day of an 92
odd-numbered calendar year and ends on the last day of the next 93
succeeding even-numbered calendar year; 94

~~(B)(1) Prepare a report each year that identifies resources~~ 95
~~available to~~ Identify and fund fatherhood-related ~~programs and~~ 96
~~explores the creation of~~ initiatives operated by government 97
agencies and private, nonprofit entities, including initiatives 98
that seek to do the following: 99

~~(a) Build the parenting skills of fathers;~~ 100

~~(b) Provide employment related services for low income,~~ 101
~~noncustodial fathers;~~ 102

~~(c) Prevent premature fatherhood;~~ 103

~~(d) Provide services to fathers who are inmates in or have~~ 104
~~just been released from imprisonment in a state correctional~~ 105
~~institution, as defined in section 2967.01 of the Revised Code, or~~ 106
~~in any other detention facility, as defined in section 2921.01 of~~ 107
~~the Revised Code, so that they are able to maintain or reestablish~~ 108
~~their relationships with their families;~~ 109

~~(e) Reconcile fathers with their families;~~ 110

(f)(1) Increase public awareness of the critical role fathers play;	111
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<u>(2) Augment father-readiness by preventing premature fatherhood, building parenting skills, and providing employment-related services for low-income fathers;</u>	113
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<u>(3) Promote and enhance father-child bonding, family reconciliation, and fathers' involvement in schools by educating the public about such topics as childbirth, paternity establishment, child support, custody, visitation, incarceration, and re-entry into family life and society following incarceration;</u>	116
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<u>(4) Develop fathers' relationship skills to strengthen their capacity for success in parenting, employment, and marriage.</u>	121
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(2) The commission shall submit each (C) Prepare an annual report prepared pursuant to division (B)(1) of that evaluates the fatherhood-related initiatives funded under this section and submit a copy of each report to the president and minority leader of the senate, speaker and minority leader of the house of representatives, governor, and chief justice of the supreme court. The first report is due not later than one year after the last of the initial appointments to the commission is made under section 5101.341 of the Revised Code.	123
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Section 2. That existing sections 5101.34, 5101.341, and 5101.342 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed.	132
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Section 3. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 5101.34 of the Revised Code establishing two-year terms for the members of the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood, the two additional representatives of the general public to be appointed by the Governor under that section, as amended by this act, shall be appointed to serve for initial terms as follows:	134
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(A) One of the members shall serve for a term ending July 31,	140

2011.	141
(B) One of the members shall serve for a term ending July 31,	142
2012.	143