

As Introduced

**129th General Assembly
Regular Session
2011-2012**

H. B. No. 240

Representatives Weddington, Amstutz

**Cosponsors: Representatives Antonio, Ashford, Combs, Foley, Hagan, R.,
Szollosi, Blair**

—

A B I L L

To enact sections 901.80 and 901.81 of the Revised 1
Code to create the Ohio Sustainable Food Advisory 2
Council to address program and policy 3
considerations regarding the development of a 4
sustainable food economy in Ohio. 5

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

Section 1. That sections 901.80 and 901.81 of the Revised 6
Code be enacted to read as follows: 7

Sec. 901.80. (A) There is hereby created the Ohio sustainable 8
food advisory council consisting of the following members: 9

10

(1) The director of agriculture or the director's designee; 11

(2) The director of development or the director's designee; 12

(3) The director of health or the director's designee; 13

(4) The director of natural resources or the director's 14
designee; 15

(5) The superintendent of public instruction or the 16
superintendent's designee. 17

<u>(6) All of the following appointed by the governor:</u>	18
<u>(a) Two persons representing small farms;</u>	19
<u>(b) Two persons representing medium farms;</u>	20
<u>(c) Two persons representing large farms;</u>	21
<u>(d) One person representing the institutional food service industry with experience regarding the service of schools;</u>	22 23
<u>(e) One person representing the food processing industry;</u>	24
<u>(f) One person representing the Ohio farm bureau federation;</u>	25
<u>(g) One person representing the Ohio ecological food and farming association.</u>	26 27
<u>(7) The following members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives:</u>	28 29
<u>(a) One person representing the innovative farmers of Ohio;</u>	30
<u>(b) One person representing the Ohio farmers union;</u>	31
<u>(c) One person representing a faith-based food and hunger agency;</u>	32 33
<u>(d) One person representing an emergency food assistance agency;</u>	34 35
<u>(e) One person representing an Ohio-based organic certification agency;</u>	36 37
<u>(f) One person representing the health care industry in this state;</u>	38 39
<u>(g) One person with expertise in agriculture representing a public university;</u>	40 41
<u>(h) One person with expertise in health and nutrition representing a public university;</u>	42 43
<u>(i) Two members of the house of representatives, one from the majority party and one from the minority party.</u>	44 45

<u>(8) The following members appointed by the president of the</u>	46
<u>senate:</u>	47
<u>(a) One person with expertise in food and agriculture</u>	48
<u>representing a private college;</u>	49
<u>(b) One person representing the retail food industry;</u>	50
<u>(c) One person representing the restaurant and food</u>	51
<u>preparation industry;</u>	52
<u>(d) One person representing a statewide environmental</u>	53
<u>advocacy organization;</u>	54
<u>(e) One person based in this state representing the United</u>	55
<u>States department of agriculture;</u>	56
<u>(f) One person representing a farmland preservation</u>	57
<u>organization;</u>	58
<u>(g) One person representing an economic development</u>	59
<u>organization focused on food and agriculture;</u>	60
<u>(h) One person representing the Ohio produce growers and</u>	61
<u>marketers association;</u>	62
<u>(i) Two members of the senate, one from the majority party</u>	63
<u>and one from the minority party.</u>	64
<u>(B) Of the initial members appointed to the council, the</u>	65
<u>members appointed by the governor shall be appointed for terms of</u>	66
<u>one year, the members appointed by the speaker of the house of</u>	67
<u>representatives shall be appointed for terms of two years, and the</u>	68
<u>members appointed by the president of the senate shall be</u>	69
<u>appointed for terms of three years. Thereafter, members shall</u>	70
<u>serve three-year terms with each term ending on the same day of</u>	71
<u>the same month as did the term that it succeeds. Each member shall</u>	72
<u>serve from the date of appointment until the end of the term for</u>	73
<u>which the member was appointed.</u>	74
<u>Members may be reappointed. Vacancies shall be filled in the</u>	75

same manner as provided for original appointments. A member 76
appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration date 77
of the term for which the member was appointed shall hold office 78
for the remainder of that term. A member shall continue to serve 79
after the expiration date of the member's term until the member's 80
successor is appointed or until a period of sixty days has 81
elapsed, whichever occurs first. The applicable appointing 82
authority may remove a member from the council for failure to 83
attend two consecutive meetings without showing good cause for the 84
absences. 85

(C) The director of agriculture or the director's designee 86
shall serve as the chairperson of the council, and the council 87
annually shall select from among its members a vice-chairperson 88
and a secretary. The secretary shall keep a record of its 89
proceedings. A majority vote of the members of the council is 90
necessary to take action on any matter. The council may adopt 91
bylaws governing its operation, including bylaws that establish 92
the frequency of meetings, which shall be at least quarterly. The 93
chairperson may appoint subcommittees of the council. 94

(D) Serving as a member of the council does not constitute 95
holding a public office or position of employment under the laws 96
of this state and does not constitute grounds for removal of 97
public officers or employees from their offices or positions of 98
employment. Members of the council shall serve without 99
compensation for attending council meetings. 100

(E) The department of agriculture shall provide technical 101
assistance to and meeting space for the council. 102

Sec. 901.81. (A) The Ohio sustainable food advisory council, 103
on a continuing basis, shall develop proposed sustainable food 104
programs and policies for this state. In doing so, the council may 105
consider any of the following program and policy issues: 106

(1) An in-depth assessment of the foods that are served to public school students under the national school lunch program and the school breakfast program, including the possibility of increasing the amount of sustainable local food used in those programs and the nutritional, behavioral, and performance benefits of that increase; 107
108
109
110
111
112

(2) An in-depth analysis of the possibility of meeting the needs of public assistance programs through food production processes in this state; 113
114
115

(3) An in-depth analysis of the possibility of engaging more citizens of this state in the food production system and lowering food costs for urban dwellers in this state during times of economic hardship, including making use of idle urban property, increasing opportunities for small farms, and developing strategies for the long-term viability of small, medium, and large farms; 116
117
118
119
120
121
122

(4) An in-depth analysis of the potential impacts that the production of sustainable local food would have on economic development in this state, both the direct impacts on the producers of sustainable local food and the actual and potential indirect impacts such as encouraging restaurants that feature locally raised agricultural products, promoting food and wine tourism, and developing a diverse food production chain; 123
124
125
126
127
128
129

(5) An in-depth evaluation of agriculture as a means of stewardship and enhancement of the agricultural and natural ecosystems of this state with a focus on the enhancement of the quality of life for the residents of this state, healthy and productive soils, clean water, landscape aesthetics, biological diversity, and clean air; 130
131
132
133
134
135

(6) Issues regarding how local and regional efforts could promote a sustainable local food economy by providing an 136
137

<u>information and engagement center that would assist entrepreneurs</u>	138
<u>and farmers in working around any current barriers to a</u>	139
<u>sustainable local food economy and in pursuing opportunities</u>	140
<u>related to a sustainable local food economy;</u>	141
<u>(7) Issues regarding the identification and development of</u>	142
<u>solutions to regulatory and policy barriers to the development of</u>	143
<u>a strong sustainable local food economy;</u>	144
<u>(8) Issues regarding strengthening local infrastructure and</u>	145
<u>entrepreneurial efforts related to a sustainable local food</u>	146
<u>economy;</u>	147
<u>(9) Any other program and policy issues the council considers</u>	148
<u>pertinent.</u>	149
<u>(B) Not later than the first day of October of each year, the</u>	150
<u>council shall report its findings and recommendations, including</u>	151
<u>any legislative proposals or proposals for administrative actions,</u>	152
<u>to the general assembly in accordance with section 101.68 of the</u>	153
<u>Revised Code and to the governor.</u>	154