As Reported by the Senate Insurance, Commerce and Labor Committee

129th General Assembly Regular Session 2011-2012

Sub. S. B. No. 139

Senator Hughes

Cosponsors: Senators Schaffer, Seitz, Patton

A BILL

То	amend sections 4123.291, 4125.01, 4125.02,	1
	4125.03, 4125.05, 4125.07, 4125.08, 4141.24, and	2
	5747.07 and to enact sections 4125.041, 4125.042,	3
	4125.051, 4125.10, and 4125.11 of the Revised Code	4
	to establish certain financial capacity	5
	requirements for professional employer	6
	organizations, clarify rights and liabilities of	7
	professional employer organizations and client	8
	employers, and make other changes to the	9
	professional employer organization law	10

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

Section 1. That sections 4123.291, 4125.01, 4125.02, 4125.03,	11
4125.05, 4125.07, 4125.08, 4141.24, and 5747.07 be amended and	12
sections 4125.041, 4125.042, 4125.051, 4125.10, and 4125.11 of the	13
Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:	14
Sec. 4123.291. (A) An adjudicating committee appointed by the	15
administrator of workers' compensation to hear any matter	16
specified in divisions (B)(1) to (7) of this section shall hear	17
the matter within sixty days of the date on which an employer	18

(6) Any decision relating to any other risk premium matter

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under Chapters 4121., 4123., and 4131. of the Revised Code;	50
(7) An employer petition objecting to the amount of security	51
required under division $\frac{(C)}{(D)}$ of section 4125.05 of the Revised	52
Code and the rules adopted pursuant to that section.	53
(C) The bureau of workers' compensation board of directors,	54
based upon recommendations of the workers' compensation actuarial	55
committee, shall establish the policy for all adjudicating	56
committee procedures, including, but not limited to, specific	57
criteria for manual premium rate adjustment.	58
Sec. 4125.01. As used in this chapter:	59
(A) "Assurance organization" means an independent and	60
qualified entity approved by the administrator of workers'	61
compensation to certify the qualifications of a professional	62
employer organization or professional employer organization	63
reporting entity.	64
(B) "Client employer" means a sole proprietor, partnership,	65
association, limited liability company, or corporation that enters	66
into a professional employer organization agreement and is	67
assigned shared employees by the professional employer	68
organization.	69
$\frac{B}{C}$ "Coemploy" means the sharing of the responsibilities	70
and liabilities of being an employer.	71
$\frac{(C)}{(D)}$ "Professional employer organization" means a sole	72
proprietor, partnership, association, limited liability company,	73
or corporation that enters into an agreement with one or more	74
client employers for the purpose of coemploying all or part of the	75
client employer's workforce at the client employer's work site.	76
$\frac{(D)(E)}{(E)}$ "Professional employer organization agreement" means a	77
written contract to coemploy employees between a professional	78
employer organization and a client employer with a duration of not	79

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less than twelve months in accordance with the requirements of	80
this chapter.	81
(E)(F) "Professional employer organization reporting entity"	82
means two or more professional employer organizations that are	83
majority owned or commonly controlled by the same entity, parent,	84
or controlling person and that satisfy reporting entity control	85
rules as defined by the financial accounting standards board and	86
under generally accepted accounting principles.	87
(G) "Shared employee" means an individual intended to be	88
assigned to a client employer on a permanent basis, not as a	89
temporary supplement to the client employer's workforce, who is	90
coemployed by a professional employer organization and a client	91
employer pursuant to a professional employer organization	92
agreement.	93
$\frac{(F)(H)}{(H)}$ "Trade secret" has the same meaning as in section	94
1333.61 of the Revised Code.	95
(I) "Working capital" means the excess of current assets over	96
current liabilities as determined by generally accepted accounting	97
principles.	98
Sec. 4125.02. The administrator of the bureau of workers'	99
compensation shall adopt rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of	100
the Revised Code to administer and enforce this chapter, including	101
rules to administer and enforce divisions (B) and (G) of section	102
4125.03 of the Revised Code.	103
	103
The administrator may adopt rules for the acceptance of	104
electronic filings in accordance with Chapter 1306. of the Revised	105
Code for applications, documents, reports, and other filings	106
required by this chapter.	107
The administrator may allow an independent assurance	108
organization to act on behalf of a professional employer	109

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<pre>employer may have;</pre>	201
(4) Comply with any applicable licensure, regulatory, or	202
statutory requirement of the client employer.	203
(C) Notwithstanding division (B) of this section, a client	204
employer may retain sufficient direction and control over a shared	205
employee as is necessary to conduct the client employer's business	206
and to discharge any fiduciary responsibility that it may have, or	207
to comply with any applicable licensure, regulatory, or statutory	208
requirement of the client employer	209
(E) Unless otherwise agreed to in the professional employer	210
organization agreement, liability for acts, errors, and omissions	211
<pre>shall be determined as follows:</pre>	212
(1) A professional employer organization shall not be liable	213
for the acts, errors, and omissions of a client employer or a	214
shared employee when those acts, errors, and omissions occur under	215
the direction and control of the client employer.	216
(2) A client employer shall not be liable for the acts,	217
errors, and omissions of a professional employer organization or a	218
shared employee when those acts, errors, and omissions occur under	219
the direction and control of the professional employer	220
organization.	221
(F) Nothing in divisions (D) and (E) of this section shall be	222
construed to limit any liability or obligation specifically agreed	223
to in the professional employer organization agreement.	224
Sec. 4125.041. A shared employee under a professional	225
employer organization agreement shall not, solely as a result of	226
being a shared employee, be considered an employee of the	227
professional employer organization for purposes of general	228
liability insurance, fidelity bonds, surety bonds, employer	229
liability not otherwise covered by Chapters 4121. and 4123. of the	230

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Revised Code, or liquor liability insurance carried by the	231
professional employer organization, unless the professional	232
employer organization agreement and applicable prearranged	233
employment contract, insurance contract, or bond specifically	234
states otherwise.	235
Sec. 4125.042. (A) For purposes of determining tax credits	236
and other economic incentives that are provided by this state or	237
any political subdivision and based on employment, shared	238
employees under a professional employer organization agreement	239
shall be considered employees solely of the client employer.	240
(1) A client employer shall be entitled to the benefit of any	241
tax credit, economic incentive, or similar benefit arising as the	242
result of the client employer's employment of shared employees. If	243
the grant or amount of any tax credit, economic incentive, or	244
other benefit is based on number of employees, each client	245
employer shall be treated as employing only those shared employees	246
coemployed by the client employer. Shared employees working for	247
other client employers of the professional employer organization	248
shall not be counted as employees for that purpose.	249
(2) Upon request by a client employer or an agency or	250
department of this state, a professional employer organization	251
shall provide employment information reasonably required by the	252
agency or department responsible for administration of the tax	253
credit or economic incentive and necessary to support any request,	254
claim, application, or other action by a client employer seeking	255
the tax credit or economic incentive.	256
(B) Shared employees whose services are subject to sales tax	257
shall be considered the employees of the client employer for	258
purposes of collecting and levying sales tax on the services	259
performed by the shared employee. Nothing contained in this	260
chapter shall relieve a client employer or professional employer	261

registration for purposes of initial registration or current as of	293
the date of annual registration renewal, or within fourteen days	294
of adding or releasing a client, that includes the client	295
employer's name, address, federal tax identification number, and	296
oureau of workers' compensation risk number;	297
(2) A fee as determined by the administrator;	298
(3) The name or names under which the professional employer	299
organization conducts business;	300
(4) The address of the professional employer organization's	301
principal place of business and the address of each office it	302
maintains in this state;	303
(5) The professional employer organization's taxpayer or	304
employer identification number;	305
(6) A list of each state in which the professional employer	306
organization has operated in the preceding five years, and the	307
name, corresponding with each state, under which the professional	308
employer organization operated in each state, including any	309
alternative names, names of predecessors, and if known, successor	310
ousiness entities <u>:</u>	311
(7) The most recent financial statement prepared and audited	312
oursuant to division (B) of section 4125.051 of the Revised Code;	313
(8) If there is any deficit in the working capital required	314
under division (A) of section 4125.051 of the Revised Code, a	315
oond, irrevocable letter of credit, or securities with a minimum	316
market value in an amount sufficient to cover the deficit in	317
accordance with the requirements of that section;	318
(9) An attestation of the accuracy of the data submissions	319
from the chief executive officer of the professional employer	320
organization.	321
(C) <u>Upon terms and for periods that the administrator</u>	322

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considers appropriate, the administrator may issue a limited	323
registration to a professional employer organization or	324
professional employer organization reporting entity that provides	325
all of the following items:	326
(1) A properly executed request for limited registration on a	327
form provided by the administrator;	328
(2) All information and materials required for registration	329
in divisions (B)(1) to (6) of this section;	330
(3) Information and documentation necessary to show that the	331
professional employer organization or professional employer	332
organization reporting entity satisfies all of the following	333
<u>criteria:</u>	334
(a) It is domiciled outside of this state.	335
(b) It is licensed or registered as a professional employer	336
organization in another state.	337
(c) It does not maintain an office in this state.	338
(d) It does not participate in direct solicitations for	339
client employers located or domiciled in this state.	340
(e) It has fifty or fewer shared employees employed or	341
domiciled in this state on any given day.	342
(D)(1) The administrator, with the advice and consent of the	343
bureau of workers' compensation board of directors, shall adopt	344
rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to	345
require, in addition to the requirement under division (B)(8) of	346
this section and except as otherwise specified in division	347
$\frac{(C)}{(D)}(2)$ of this section, a professional employer organization to	348
provide security in the form of a bond or letter of credit	349
assignable to the Ohio bureau of workers' compensation not to	350
exceed an amount equal to the premiums and assessments incurred	351
for the two most recent payroll periods, prior to any discounts or	352

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dividends, to meet the financial obligations of the professional	353
employer organization pursuant to this chapter and Chapters 4121.	354
and 4123. of the Revised Code.	355
(2) As an alternative to providing security in the form of a	356
bond or letter of credit under division (D)(1) of this section,	357
the administrator shall permit a professional employer	358
organization to make periodic payments of prospective premiums and	359
assessments to the bureau or to submit proof of being certified by	360
either a nationally recognized organization that certifies	361
professional employer organizations or by a government entity	362
approved by the administrator.	363
(3) A professional employer organization may appeal the	364
amount of the security required pursuant to rules adopted under	365
division $\frac{(C)(D)}{(D)}(1)$ of this section in accordance with section	366
4123.291 of the Revised Code.	367
$\frac{(D)(E)}{(E)}$ Notwithstanding division $\frac{(C)(D)}{(D)}$ of this section, a	368
professional employer organization that qualifies for	369
self-insurance or retrospective rating under section 4123.29 or	370
4123.35 of the Revised Code shall abide by the financial	371
disclosure and security requirements pursuant to those sections	372
and the rules adopted under those sections in place of the	373
requirements specified in division $\frac{(C)}{(D)}$ of this section or	374
specified in rules adopted pursuant to that division.	375
$\frac{(E)}{(F)}$ Except to the extent necessary for the administrator	376
to administer the statutory duties of the administrator and for	377
employees of the state to perform their official duties, all	378
records, reports, client lists, and other information obtained	379
from a professional employer organization and professional	380
employer organization reporting entity under divisions (A), (B),	381
and $rac{(B)}{(C)}$ of this section are confidential and shall be	382
considered trade secrets and shall not be published or open to	383

public inspection.

$\frac{(F)(G)}{(G)}$ The list described in division (B)(1) of this section	385
shall be considered a trade secret.	386
$\frac{(G)}{(H)}$ The administrator shall establish the fee described in	387
division (B)(2) of this section in an amount that does not exceed	388
the cost of the administration of the initial and renewal	389
registration process.	390
(I) A financial statement required under division (B)(7) of	391
this section for initial registration shall be the most recent	392
financial statement of the professional employer organization or	393
professional employer organization reporting entity of which the	394
professional employer organization is a member and shall not be	395
older than thirteen months. For each registration renewal, the	396
professional employer organization shall file the required	397
financial statement within one hundred eighty days after the end	398
of the professional employer organization's or professional	399
employer organization reporting entity's fiscal year. A	400
professional employer organization may apply to the administrator	401
for an extension beyond that time if the professional employer	402
organization provides the administrator with a letter from the	403
professional employer organization's auditor stating the reason	404
for delay and the anticipated completion date.	405
(J) Multiple, unrelated professional employer organizations	406
shall not combine together for purposes of obtaining workers'	407
compensation coverage or for forming any type of self-insurance	408
arrangement available under this chapter. Multiple, unrelated	409
professional employer organization reporting entities shall not	410
combine together for purposes of obtaining workers' compensation	411
coverage or for forming any type of self-insurance arrangement	412
available under this chapter.	413
(K) The administrator shall maintain a list of professional	414
employer organizations and professional employer organization	415
reporting entities registered under this section that is readily	416

available to the public by electronic or other means.	417
Sec. 4125.051. (A) A professional employer organization, or a	418
professional employer organization reporting entity of which the	419
professional employer organization is a member, shall maintain	420
positive working capital at initial or annual registration, as	421
reflected in the financial statements submitted to the bureau. If	422
a deficit in working capital is reflected in the financial	423
statements submitted to the bureau, the professional employer	424
organization or the professional employer organization reporting	425
entity shall do both of the following for that registration	426
period:	427
(1) Obtain a bond, irrevocable letter of credit, or	428
securities with a minimum market value in an amount sufficient to	429
cover the deficit in working capital;	430
(2) Submit to the administrator of workers' compensation a	431
quarterly financial statement for each calendar quarter during	432
which there is a deficit in working capital, accompanied by an	433
attestation of the chief executive officer of the professional	434
employer organization that all wages, taxes, workers' compensation	435
premiums, and employee benefits have been paid by the professional	436
employer organization or members of the professional employer	437
organization reporting entity.	438
The bond, letter of credit, or securities required under	439
division (A)(1) of this section shall be held by a depository	440
designated by the administrator and shall secure payment by the	441
professional employer organization of all taxes, wages, benefits,	442
or other entitlements due or otherwise pertaining to shared	443
employees, if the professional employer organization does not make	444
those payments when due.	445
(B) A professional employer organization, or a professional	446
employer organization reporting entity of which the professional	447

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employer organization is a member, shall prepare financial	448
statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting	449
principles and submit them for registration and registration	450
renewal under section 4125.05 of the Revised Code.	451
The financial statements shall be audited by an independent	452
certified public accountant authorized to practice in the	453
jurisdiction in which that accountant is located.	454
(1) The resulting report of the auditor shall not include	455
either of the following:	456
(a) A qualification or disclaimer of opinion as to adherence	457
to generally accepted accounting principles;	458
(b) A statement expressing substantial doubt about the	459
ability of the professional employer organization or professional	460
employer organization reporting entity to continue as a going	461
concern.	462
(2) However, if a professional employer organization does not	463
have at least twelve months of operating history on which to base	464
financial statements, the financial statements shall be reviewed	465
by a certified public accountant.	466
(3) Notwithstanding division (B)(1)(a) of this section, if a	467
professional employer organization or professional employer	468
organization reporting entity is a subsidiary or is related to a	469
variable interest entity, the professional employer organization	470
or professional employer organization entity may submit financial	471
statements of the professional employer organization or	472
professional employer organization reporting entity.	473
(C) The bureau shall deny initial or annual registration to	474
an applicant or professional employer organization reporting	475
entity that does not meet the requirements of this section.	476
(D) Professional employer organizations in a professional	477

As reported by the octiate insurance, commerce and capor committee	
employer organization reporting entity may satisfy the	478
requirements of this section on a combined or consolidated basis	479
provided that each member of the professional employer	480
organization reporting entity guarantees each other members!	481
satisfaction of the requirements under division (A) of this	482
section.	483
For purposes of satisfying the registration and registration	484
renewal requirements described in division (B)(7) of section	485
4125.05 of the Revised Code, a professional employer organization	486
reporting entity may submit a combined or consolidated financial	487
statement that satisfies the requirements of this section. If the	488
combined or consolidated financial statement includes entities	489
that are not professional employer organizations or that are not	490
in the professional employer organization reporting entity, the	491
controlling entity of the professional employer organization	492
reporting entity that is submitting the consolidated or combined	493
financial statement shall guarantee that the professional employer	494
organizations of the professional employer organization reporting	495
entity have satisfied the requirements under division (A) of this	496
section and shall include supplemental combining schedules to	497
guarantee that the requirements under division (A) of this section	498
are satisfied by the professional employer organization or	499
professional employer organization reporting entity.	500
Sec. 4125.07. Not later than fourteen calendar days after the	501
date on which a professional employer organization agreement is	502
terminated, the professional employer organization is adjudged	503
bankrupt, the professional employer organization ceases operations	504
within the state of Ohio, or the registration of the professional	505
employer organization is revoked, the professional employer	506
organization shall submit to the administrator of the bureau of	507
workers' compensation and each client employer associated with	508

that professional employer organization a completed workers'

compensation lease termination notice form provided by the	510
administrator. The completed form shall include all client payroll	511
and claim information listed in a format specified by the	512
administrator and notice of all workers' compensation claims that	513
have been reported to the professional employer organization in	514
accordance with its internal reporting policies.	515
A professional employer organization shall report any	516

transfer of employees between related professional employer 517 organization entities or professional employer organization 518 reporting entities to the administrator within fourteen calendar 519 days after the date of the transfer on a form prescribed by the 520 administrator. The professional employer organization or 521 professional employer organization reporting entity shall include 522 in the form all client payroll and claim information regarding the 523 transferred employees listed in a format specified by the 524 administrator and a notice of all workers' compensation claims 525 that have been reported to the professional employer organization 526 or professional employer organization reporting entity in 527 accordance with the internal reporting policies of the 528 professional employer organization or professional employer 529 organization reporting entity. 530

Sec. 4125.08. Nothing in this chapter exempts a professional 531 employer organization, client employer, or shared employee from 532 any applicable federal, state, or local licensing, registration, 533 or certification statutes or regulations. An individual required 534 to obtain and maintain a license, registration, or certification 535 under law and who is a shared employee of a professional employer 536 organization and a client employer is an employee of the client 537 employer for purposes of obtaining and maintaining the appropriate 538 license, registration, or certification as required by law. A 539 professional employer organization does not engage in any 540

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occupation, trade, or profession that requires a license,	541
certification, or registration solely by entering into a	542
professional employer agreement with a client employer or	543
coemploying a shared employee.	544
A client employer shall have the sole right of direction and	545
control of the professional or licensed activities of shared	546
employees and of the client employer's business. The shared	547
employees and client employers shall remain subject to regulation	548
by the board, commission, or agency responsible for licensing,	549
registration, or certification of the shared employees or client	550
employers.	551
Sec. 4125.10. Nothing contained in this chapter or in any	552
professional employer organization agreement shall do any of the	553
<pre>following:</pre>	554
(A) Diminish, abolish, or remove the rights and obligations	555
of client employers and shared employees existing prior to the	556
effective date of the professional employer organization	557
agreement;	558
(B) Affect, modify, or amend any contractual relationship or	559
restrictive covenant between a shared employee and any client	560
employer in effect at the time a professional employer	561
organization agreement becomes effective;	562
(C) Prohibit or amend any contractual relationship or	563
restrictive covenant between a client employer and a shared	564
employee that is entered into after the professional employer	565
organization agreement becomes effective;	566
(D) Create any new or additional enforcement right of a	567
shared employee against a professional employer organization that	568
is not specifically provided by the professional employer	569
organization agreement or this chapter.	570

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A professional employer organization shall have no	571
responsibility or liability in connection with, or arising out of,	572
any contractual relationship or restrictive covenant between a	573
client employer and a shared employee unless the professional	574
employer organization has specifically agreed otherwise in	575
writing.	576
Sec. 4125.11. For purposes of a bid, contract, purchase	577
order, or agreement entered into with the state or any political	578
subdivision, a client employer's status or certification as a	579
small, minority-owned, disadvantaged, or woman-owned business	580
enterprise or as a historically underutilized business shall not	581
be affected as a result of the client employer entering into a	582
professional employer organization agreement or using the services	583
of a professional employer organization.	584
Sec. 4141.24. (A)(1) The director of job and family services	585
shall maintain a separate account for each employer and, except as	586
otherwise provided in division (B) of section 4141.25 of the	587
Revised Code respecting mutualized contributions, shall credit	588
such employer's account with all the contributions, or payments in	589
lieu of contributions, which the employer has paid on the	590
employer's own behalf.	591
(2) If, as of the computation date, a contributory employer's	592
account shows a negative balance computed as provided in division	593
(A)(3) of section 4141.25 of the Revised Code, less any	594
contributions due and unpaid on such date, which negative balance	595
is in excess of the limitations imposed by divisions (A)(2)(a),	596
(b), and (c) of this section and if the employer's account is	597
otherwise eligible for the transfer, then before the employer's	598
contribution rate is computed for the next succeeding contribution	599

period, an amount equal to the amount of the excess eligible for

transfer shall be permanently transferred from the account of such

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employer and charged to the mutualized account provided in division (B) of section 4141.25 of the Revised Code.

- (a) If as of any computation date, a contributory employer's 604 account shows a negative balance in excess of ten per cent of the 605 employer's average annual payroll, then before the employer's 606 contribution rate is computed for the next succeeding contribution 607 period, an amount equal to the amount of the excess shall be 608 transferred from the account as provided in this division. No 609 contributory employer's account may have any excess transferred 610 pursuant to division (A)(2)(a) of this section, unless the 611 employer's account has shown a positive balance for at least two 612 consecutive computation dates prior to the computation date with 613 respect to which the transfer is proposed. Each time a transfer is 614 made pursuant to division (A)(2)(a) of this section, the 615 employer's account is ineligible for any additional transfers 616 under that division, until the account shows a positive balance 617 for at least two consecutive computation dates subsequent to the 618 computation date of which the most recent transfer occurs pursuant 619 to division (A)(2)(a), (b), or (c) of this section. 620
- (b) If at the next computation date after the computation 621 date at which a transfer from the account occurs pursuant to 622 division (A)(2)(a) of this section, a contributory employer's 623 account shows a negative balance in excess of fifteen per cent of 624 the employer's average annual payroll, then before the employer's 625 contribution rate is computed for the next succeeding contribution 626 period an amount equal to the amount of the excess shall be 627 permanently transferred from the account as provided in this 628 division. 629
- (c) If at the next computation date subsequent to the

 computation date at which a transfer from a contributory

 employer's account occurs pursuant to division (A)(2)(b) of this

 section, the employer's account shows a negative balance in excess

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of twenty per cent of the employer's average annual payroll, then	634
before the employer's contribution rate is computed for the next	635
succeeding contribution period, an amount equal to the amount of	636
the excess shall be permanently transferred from the account as	637
provided in this division.	638

- (d) If no transfer occurs pursuant to division (A)(2)(b) or 639 (c) of this section, the employer's account is ineligible for any 640 additional transfers under division (A)(2) of this section until 641 the account requalifies for a transfer pursuant to division 642 (A)(2)(a) of this section. 643
- (B) Any employer may make voluntary payments in addition to 644 the contributions required under this chapter, in accordance with 645 rules established by the director. Such payments shall be included 646 in the employer's account as of the computation date, provided 647 they are received by the director by the thirty-first day of 648 December following such computation date. Such voluntary payment, 649 when accepted from an employer, will not be refunded in whole or 650 in part. In determining whether an employer's account has a 651 positive balance on two consecutive computation dates and is 652 eligible for transfers under division (A)(2) of this section, the 653 director shall exclude any voluntary payments made subsequent to 654 the last transfer made under division (A)(2) of this section. 655
- (C) All contributions to the fund shall be pooled and 656 available to pay benefits to any individual entitled to benefits 657 irrespective of the source of such contributions. 658
- (D)(1) For the purposes of this section and sections 4141.241 659 and 4141.242 of the Revised Code, an employer's account shall be 660 charged only for benefits based on remuneration paid by such 661 employer. Benefits paid to an eligible individual shall be charged 662 against the account of each employer within the claimant's base 663 period in the proportion to which wages attributable to each 664 employer of the claimant bears to the claimant's total base period 665

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wages. Charges to the account of a base period employer with whom	666
the claimant is employed part-time at the time the claimant's	667
application for a determination of benefits rights is filed shall	668
be charged to the mutualized account when all of the following	669
conditions are met:	670
(a) The claimant also worked part-time for the employer	671
during the base period of the claim.	672
(b) The claimant is unemployed due to loss of other	673
employment.	674
(c) The employer is not a reimbursing employer under section	675
4141.241 or 4141.242 of the Revised Code.	676
(2) Notwithstanding division (D)(1) of this section, charges	677
to the account of any employer, including any reimbursing	678
employer, shall be charged to the mutualized account if it finally	679
is determined by a court on appeal that the employer's account is	680
not chargeable for the benefits.	681
(3) Any benefits paid to a claimant under section 4141.28 of	682
the Revised Code prior to a final determination of the claimant's	683
right to the benefits shall be charged to the employer's account	684
as provided in division (D)(1) of this section, provided that if	685
there is no final determination of the claim by the subsequent	686
thirtieth day of June, the employer's account shall be credited	687
with the total amount of benefits that has been paid prior to that	688
date, based on the determination that has not become final. The	689
total amount credited to the employer's account shall be charged	690
to a suspense account, which shall be maintained as a separate	691
bookkeeping account and administered as a part of this section,	692
and shall not be used in determining the account balance of the	693
employer for the purpose of computing the employer's contribution	694
rate under section 4141.25 of the Revised Code.	695

If it is finally determined that the claimant is entitled to

all or a part of the benefits in dispute, the suspense account 697 shall be credited and the appropriate employer's account charged 698 with the benefits. If it is finally determined that the claimant 699 is not entitled to all or any portion of the benefits in dispute, 700 the benefits shall be credited to the suspense account and a 701 corresponding charge made to the mutualized account established in 702 division (B) of section 4141.25 of the Revised Code, provided 703 that, except as otherwise provided in this section, if benefits 704 are chargeable to an employer or group of employers who is 705 required or elects to make payments to the fund in lieu of 706 contributions under section 4141.241 of the Revised Code, the 707 benefits shall be charged to the employer's account in the manner 708 provided in division (D)(1) of this section and division (B) of 709 section 4141.241 of the Revised Code, and no part of the benefits 710 may be charged to the suspense account provided in this division. 711

To the extent that benefits that have been paid to a claimant 712 and charged to the employer's account are found not to be due the 713 claimant and are recovered by the director as provided in section 714 4141.35 of the Revised Code, they shall be credited to the 715 employer's account.

(4) The director shall notify each employer at least once 717 each month of the benefits charged to the employer's account since 718 the last preceding notice; except that for the purposes of 719 sections 4141.241 and 4141.242 of the Revised Code which provides 720 the billing of employers on a payment in lieu of a contribution 721 basis, the director may prescribe a quarterly or less frequent 722 notice of benefits charged to the employer's account. Such notice 723 will show a summary of the amount of benefits paid which were 724 charged to the employer's account. This notice shall not be deemed 725 a determination of the claimant's eligibility for benefits. Any 726 employer so notified, however, may file within fifteen days after 727 the mailing date of the notice, an exception to charges appearing 728

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on the notice on the grounds that such charges are not in 729 accordance with this section. The director shall promptly examine 730 the exception to such charges and shall notify the employer of the 731 director's decision thereon, which decision shall become final 732 unless appealed to the unemployment compensation review commission 733 in the manner provided in section 4141.26 of the Revised Code. For 734 the purposes of this division, an exception is considered timely 735 filed when it has been received as provided in division (D)(1) of 736 section 4141.281 of the Revised Code. 737

(E) The director shall terminate and close the account of any contributory employer who has been subject to this chapter if the enterprise for which the account was established is no longer in operation and it has had no payroll and its account has not been chargeable with benefits for a period of five consecutive years. The amount of any positive balance, computed as provided in division (A)(3) of section 4141.25 of the Revised Code, in an account closed and terminated as provided in this section shall be credited to the mutualized account as provided in division (B)(2)(b) of section 4141.25 of the Revised Code. The amount of any negative balance, computed as provided in division (A)(3) of section 4141.25 of the Revised Code, in an account closed and terminated as provided in this section shall be charged to the mutualized account as provided in division (B)(1)(b) of section 4141.25 of the Revised Code. The amount of any positive balance or negative balance, credited or charged to the mutualized account after the termination and closing of an employer's account, shall not thereafter be considered in determining the contribution rate of such employer. The closing of an employer's account as provided in this division shall not relieve such employer from liability for any unpaid contributions or payment in lieu of contributions which are due for periods prior to such closing.

If the director finds that a contributory employer's business

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is closed solely because of the entrance of one or more of the 761 owners, officers, or partners, or the majority stockholder, into 762 the armed forces of the United States, or any of its allies, or of 763 the United Nations after July 1, 1950, such employer's account 764 shall not be terminated and if the business is resumed within two 765 years after the discharge or release of such persons from active 766 duty in the armed forces, the employer's experience shall be 767 deemed to have been continuous throughout such period. The reserve 768 ratio of any such employer shall be the total contributions paid 769 770 by such employer minus all benefits, including benefits paid to any individual during the period such employer was in the armed 771 forces, based upon wages paid by the employer prior to the 772 employer's entrance into the armed forces divided by the average 773 of the employer's annual payrolls for the three most recent years 774 during the whole of which the employer has been in business. 775

(F) If an employer transfers all of its trade or business to 776 another employer or person, the acquiring employer or person shall 777 be the successor in interest to the transferring employer and 778 shall assume the resources and liabilities of such transferring 779 employer's account, and continue the payment of all contributions, 780 or payments in lieu of contributions, due under this chapter. 781

If an employer or person acquires substantially all, or a clearly segregable and identifiable portion of an employer's trade or business, then upon the director's approval of a properly completed application for successorship, the employer or person acquiring the trade or business, or portion thereof, shall be the successor in interest. The director by rule may prescribe procedures for effecting transfers of experience as provided for in this section.

(G) Notwithstanding sections 4141.09, 4141.23, 4141.24, 790
4141.241, 4141.242, 4141.25, 4141.26, and 4141.27 of the Revised 791
Code, both of the following apply regarding assignment of rates 792

and transfers of experience:

- (1) If an employer transfers its trade or business, or a 794 portion thereof, to another employer and, at the time of the 795 transfer, both employers are under substantially common ownership, 796 management, or control, then the unemployment experience 797 attributable to the transferred trade or business, or portion 798 thereof, shall be transferred to the employer to whom the business 799 is so transferred. The director shall recalculate the rates of 800 both employers and those rates shall be effective immediately upon 801 the date of the transfer of the trade or business. 802
- (2) Whenever a person is not an employer under this chapter 803 at the time the person acquires the trade or business of an 804 employer, the unemployment experience of the acquired trade or 805 business shall not be transferred to the person if the director 806 finds that the person acquired the trade or business solely or 807 primarily for the purpose of obtaining a lower rate of 808 contributions. Instead, that person shall be assigned the 809 applicable new employer rate under division (A)(1) of section 810 4141.25 of the Revised Code. 811
- (H) The director shall establish procedures to identify the transfer or acquisition of a trade or business for purposes of this section and shall adopt rules prescribing procedures for 814 effecting transfers of experience as described in this section. 815
- (I) No rate of contribution less than two and seven-tenths 816 per cent shall be permitted a contributory employer succeeding to 817 the experience of another contributory employer pursuant to this 818 section for any period subsequent to such succession, except in 819 accordance with rules prescribed by the director, which rules 820 shall be consistent with federal requirements for additional 821 credit allowance in section 3303 of the "Internal Revenue Code of 822 1954" and consistent with this chapter, except that such rules may 823 establish a computation date for any such period different from 824

employer of record associated with each subaccount. The director

shall combine the rate experience that existed on a client	857
employer's account prior to entering into a professional employer	858
organization agreement with the experience accumulated as a	859
subaccount of the professional employer organization or	860
professional employer organization reporting entity. The combined	861
experience shall remain with the client account upon termination	862
of the professional employer organization agreement.	863
(3) A professional employer organization or professional	864
employer organization reporting entity shall provide a power of	865
attorney or other evidence, which evidence may be included as part	866
of a professional employer organization agreement, completed by	867
each client employer of the professional employer organization or	868
professional employer organization reporting entity, authorizing	869
the professional employer organization or professional employer	870
organization reporting entity to act on behalf of the client	871
employer in accordance with the requirements of this chapter.	872
(4) Any rule adopted pursuant to division (K) of this section	873
also shall include administrative requirements that permit a	874
professional employer organization or a professional employer	875
organization reporting entity to transmit any reporting and	876
payment data required under division (K)(1) of this section	877
collectively as a single filing with the director.	878
(5) As used in division (K) of this section, "client	879
employer, " "professional employer organization, " "professional	880
employer organization agreement, " "professional employer	881
organization reporting entity, " and "shared employee" have the	882
same meanings as in section 4125.01 of the Revised Code.	883
Sec. 5747.07. (A) As used in this section:	884
(1) "Partial weekly withholding period" means a period during	885
which an employer directly, indirectly, or constructively pays	886

compensation to, or credits compensation to the benefit of, an

employee, and that consists of a consecutive Saturday, Sunday,	888
Monday, and Tuesday or a consecutive Wednesday, Thursday, and	889
Friday. There are two partial weekly withholding periods each	890
week, except that a partial weekly withholding period cannot	891
extend from one calendar year into the next calendar year; if the	892
first day of January falls on a day other than Saturday or	893
Wednesday, the partial weekly withholding period ends on the	894
thirty-first day of December and there are three partial weekly	895
withholding periods during that week.	896

- (2) "Undeposited taxes" means the taxes an employer is 897 required to deduct and withhold from an employee's compensation 898 pursuant to section 5747.06 of the Revised Code that have not been 899 remitted to the tax commissioner pursuant to this section or to 900 the treasurer of state pursuant to section 5747.072 of the Revised 901 Code. 902
- (3) A "week" begins on Saturday and concludes at the end of 903 the following Friday. 904
- (4) "Client employer," "professional employer organization," 905
 "professional employer organization agreement," and "professional 906
 employer organization reporting entity" have the same meanings as 907
 in section 4125.01 of the Revised Code. 908
- (B) Except as provided in divisions (C) and (D) of this 909 section and in division (A) of section 5747.072 of the Revised 910 Code, every employer required to deduct and withhold any amount 911 under section 5747.06 of the Revised Code shall file a return and 912 shall pay the amount required by law as follows: 913
- (1) An employer who accumulates or is required to accumulate 914 undeposited taxes of one hundred thousand dollars or more during a 915 partial weekly withholding period shall make the payment of the 916 undeposited taxes by the close of the first banking day after the 917 day on which the accumulation reaches one hundred thousand 918

dollars. If required under division (I) of this section, the 919 payment shall be made by electronic funds transfer under section 920 5747.072 of the Revised Code. 921

- (2)(a) Except as required by division (B)(1) of this section, 922 an employer described in division (B)(2)(b) of this section shall 923 make the payment of undeposited taxes within three banking days 924 after the close of a partial weekly withholding period during 925 which the employer was required to deduct and withhold any amount 926 under this chapter. If required under division (I) of this 927 section, the payment shall be made by electronic funds transfer 928 under section 5747.072 of the Revised Code. 929
- (b) For amounts required to be deducted and withheld during 930 1994, an employer described in division (B)(2)(b) of this section 931 is one whose actual or required payments under this section 932 exceeded one hundred eighty thousand dollars during the 933 twelve-month period ending June 30, 1993. For amounts required to 934 be deducted and withheld during 1995 and each year thereafter, an 935 employer described in division (B)(2)(b) of this section is one 936 whose actual or required payments under this section were at least 937 eighty-four thousand dollars during the twelve-month period ending 938 on the thirtieth day of June of the preceding calendar year. 939
- (3) Except as required by divisions (B)(1) and (2) of this 940 section, if an employer's actual or required payments were more 941 than two thousand dollars during the twelve-month period ending on 942 the thirtieth day of June of the preceding calendar year, the 943 employer shall make the payment of undeposited taxes for each 944 month during which they were required to be withheld no later than 945 fifteen days following the last day of that month. The employer 946 shall file the return prescribed by the tax commissioner with the 947 payment. 948
- (4) Except as required by divisions (B)(1), (2), and (3) of 949 this section, an employer shall make the payment of undeposited 950

taxes for each calendar quarter during which they were required to be withheld no later than the last day of the month following the last day of March, June, September, and December each year. The employer shall file the return prescribed by the tax commissioner with the payment.

- (C) The return and payment schedules prescribed by divisions 956
 (B)(1) and (2) of this section do not apply to the return and 957
 payment of undeposited school district income taxes arising from 958
 taxes levied pursuant to Chapter 5748. of the Revised Code. 959
 Undeposited school district income taxes shall be returned and 960
 paid pursuant to divisions (B)(3) and (4) of this section, as 961
 applicable. 962
- (D)(1) The requirements of division (B) of this section are met if the amount paid is not less than ninety-five per cent of the actual tax withheld or required to be withheld for the prior quarterly, monthly, or partial weekly withholding period, and the underpayment is not due to willful neglect. Any underpayment of withheld tax shall be paid within thirty days of the date on which the withheld tax was due without regard to division (D)(1) of this section. An employer described in division (B)(1) or (2) of this section shall make the payment by electronic funds transfer under section 5747.072 of the Revised Code.
- (2) If the tax commissioner believes that quarterly or monthly payments would result in a delay that might jeopardize the remittance of withholding payments, the commissioner may order that the payments be made weekly, or more frequently if necessary, and the payments shall be made no later than three banking days following the close of the period for which the jeopardy order is made. An order requiring weekly or more frequent payments shall be delivered to the employer personally or by certified mail and remains in effect until the commissioner notifies the employer to the contrary.

- (3) If compelling circumstances exist concerning the 983 remittance of undeposited taxes, the commissioner may order the 984 employer to make payments under any of the payment schedules under 985 division (B) of this section. The order shall be delivered to the 986 employer personally or by certified mail and shall remain in 987 effect until the commissioner notifies the employer to the 988 contrary. For purposes of division (D)(3) of this section, 989 "compelling circumstances" exist if either or both of the 990 following are true: 991
- (a) Based upon annualization of payments made or required to 992 be made during the preceding calendar year and during the current 993 calendar year, the employer would be required for the next 994 calendar year to make payments under division (B)(2) of this 995 section.
- (b) Based upon annualization of payments made or required to 997 be made during the current calendar year, the employer would be 998 required for the next calendar year to make payments under 999 division (B)(2) of this section.
- (E)(1) An employer described in division (B)(1) or (2) of 1001 this section shall file, not later than the last day of the month 1002 following the end of each calendar quarter, a return covering, but 1003 not limited to, both the actual amount deducted and withheld and 1004 the amount required to be deducted and withheld for the tax 1005 imposed under section 5747.02 of the Revised Code during each 1006 partial weekly withholding period or portion of a partial weekly 1007 withholding period during that quarter. The employer shall file 1008 the quarterly return even if the aggregate amount required to be 1009 deducted and withheld for the quarter is zero dollars. At the time 1010 of filing the return, the employer shall pay any amounts of 1011 undeposited taxes for the quarter, whether actually deducted and 1012 withheld or required to be deducted and withheld, that have not 1013 been previously paid. If required under division (I) of this 1014

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section, the payment shall be made by electronic funds transfer. 1015

The tax commissioner shall prescribe the form and other 1016

requirements of the quarterly return. 1017

(2) In addition to other returns required to be filed and 1018 payments required to be made under this section, every employer 1019 required to deduct and withhold taxes shall file, not later than 1020 the thirty-first day of January of each year, an annual return 1021 covering, but not limited to, both the aggregate amount deducted 1022 and withheld and the aggregate amount required to be deducted and 1023 withheld during the entire preceding year for the tax imposed 1024 under section 5747.02 of the Revised Code and for each tax imposed 1025 under Chapter 5748. of the Revised Code. At the time of filing 1026 that return, the employer shall pay over any amounts of 1027 undeposited taxes for the preceding year, whether actually 1028 deducted and withheld or required to be deducted and withheld, 1029 that have not been previously paid. The employer shall make the 1030 annual report, to each employee and to the tax commissioner, of 1031 the compensation paid and each tax withheld, as the commissioner 1032 by rule may prescribe. 1033

Each employer required to deduct and withhold any tax is

liable for the payment of that amount required to be deducted and

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withheld, whether or not the tax has in fact been withheld, unless
the failure to withhold was based upon the employer's good faith

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in reliance upon the statement of the employee as to liability,

and the amount shall be deemed to be a special fund in trust for

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the general revenue fund.

- (F) Each employer shall file with the employer's annual return the following items of information on employees for whom withholding is required under section 5747.06 of the Revised Code:
- (1) The full name of each employee, the employee's address, the employee's school district of residence, and in the case of a nonresident employee, the employee's principal county of

employment; 1047

- (2) The social security number of each employee; 1048
- (3) The total amount of compensation paid before any 1049 deductions to each employee for the period for which the annual 1050 return is made;
- (4) The amount of the tax imposed by section 5747.02 of the 1052 Revised Code and the amount of each tax imposed under Chapter 1053 5748. of the Revised Code withheld from the compensation of the 1054 employee for the period for which the annual return is made. The 1055 commissioner may extend upon good cause the period for filing any 1056 notice or return required to be filed under this section and may 1057 adopt rules relating to extensions of time. If the extension 1058 results in an extension of time for the payment of the amounts 1059 withheld with respect to which the return is filed, the employer 1060 shall pay, at the time the amount withheld is paid, an amount of 1061 interest computed at the rate per annum prescribed by section 1062 5703.47 of the Revised Code on that amount withheld, from the day 1063 that amount was originally required to be paid to the day of 1064 actual payment or to the day an assessment is issued under section 1065 5747.13 of the Revised Code, whichever occurs first. 1066
- (5) In addition to all other interest charges and penalties 1067 imposed, all amounts of taxes withheld or required to be withheld 1068 and remaining unpaid after the day the amounts are required to be 1069 paid shall bear interest from the date prescribed for payment at 1070 the rate per annum prescribed by section 5703.47 of the Revised 1071 Code on the amount unpaid, in addition to the amount withheld, 1072 until paid or until the day an assessment is issued under section 1073 5747.13 of the Revised Code, whichever occurs first. 1074
- (G) An employee of a corporation, limited liability company, 1075 or business trust having control or supervision of or charged with 1076 the responsibility of filing the report and making payment, or an 1077

officer, member, manager, or trustee of a corporation, limited 1078 liability company, or business trust who is responsible for the 1079 execution of the corporation's, limited liability company's, or 1080 business trust's fiscal responsibilities, shall be personally 1081 liable for failure to file the report or pay the tax due as 1082 required by this section. The dissolution, termination, or 1083 bankruptcy of a corporation, limited liability company, or 1084 business trust does not discharge a responsible officer's, 1085 member's, manager's, employee's, or trustee's liability for a 1086 failure of the corporation, limited liability company, or business 1087 trust to file returns or pay tax due. 1088

(H) If an employer required to deduct and withhold income tax 1089 from compensation and to pay that tax to the state under sections 1090 5747.06 and 5747.07 of the Revised Code sells the employer's 1091 business or stock of merchandise or quits the employer's business, 1092 the taxes required to be deducted and withheld and paid to the 1093 state pursuant to those sections prior to that time, together with 1094 any interest and penalties imposed on those taxes, become due and 1095 payable immediately, and that person shall make a final return 1096 within fifteen days after the date of selling or quitting 1097 business. The employer's successor shall withhold a sufficient 1098 amount of the purchase money to cover the amount of the taxes, 1099 interest, and penalties due and unpaid, until the former owner 1100 produces a receipt from the tax commissioner showing that the 1101 taxes, interest, and penalties have been paid or a certificate 1102 indicating that no such taxes are due. If the purchaser of the 1103 business or stock of merchandise fails to withhold purchase money, 1104 the purchaser shall be personally liable for the payment of the 1105 taxes, interest, and penalties accrued and unpaid during the 1106 operation of the business by the former owner. If the amount of 1107 taxes, interest, and penalties outstanding at the time of the 1108 purchase exceeds the total purchase money, the tax commissioner in 1109 the commissioner's discretion may adjust the liability of the 1110

professional employer organization reporting entity shall file a

report with the tax commissioner within thirty days after

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