

**As Introduced**

**130th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2013-2014**

**H. B. No. 275**

**Representatives Patmon, Barnes**

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**A B I L L**

To enact sections 5.2288, 5101.91, and 5101.92 of the Revised Code to create the Commission on Violence Against Women and Children, to require the Commission to prepare an annual report, and to designate August as "Prevention of Violence Against Women and Children Month." 1  
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**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That sections 5.2288, 5101.91, and 5101.92 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 7  
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**Sec. 5.2288.** The month of August is designated as "Prevention of Violence Against Women and Children Month" to increase awareness of and to encourage the prevention of violence against women and children. 9  
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**Sec. 5101.91.** (A) The commission on violence against women and children shall study the problem of violence against women and children, including emotional, physical, and socio-economic forms of violence, and shall prepare an annual report in which the commission makes recommendations on implementing solutions for the prevention of violence against women and children. The commission also shall promote awareness of methods by which violence against women and children may be prevented. In studying the problem of 13  
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violence against women and children and in addressing the problem 21  
in its report, the commission shall do all of the following: 22

(1) Determine what factors lead to violence against women and 23  
children; 24

(2) Summarize in the report the initial impact and aftermath 25  
of violence against women and children; 26

(3) Summarize in the report the long-term implications of 27  
violence against children; 28

(4) Gather data for this state regarding missing women and 29  
children and violence against women and children, and submit the 30  
data in its report; 31

(5) State in its report the best methods for the timely 32  
reporting of and finding missing women and children, and for 33  
preventing violence against women and children; and 34

(6) Identify and suggest in the report changes in the laws of 35  
this state and in the policies of state and local government 36  
agencies that will reduce the number of missing women and children 37  
and will stop violence against women and children. 38

(B) On or before August 1, 2014, and on or before the first 39  
day of August of each year thereafter, the commission shall submit 40  
its report to the governor, president and minority leader of the 41  
senate, speaker and minority leader of the house of 42  
representatives, and chief justice of the supreme court. 43

**Sec. 5101.92.** The commission on violence against women and 44  
children is hereby established. The commission shall consist of 45  
the following members: 46

(A) One member of the senate appointed by the president of 47  
the senate; 48

(B) One member of the senate appointed by the minority leader 49

<u>of the senate;</u>	50
<u>(C) One member of the house of representatives appointed by</u>	51
<u>the speaker of the house of representatives;</u>	52
<u>(D) One member of the house of representatives appointed by</u>	53
<u>the minority leader of the house of representatives;</u>	54
<u>(E) The governor, or the governor's designee;</u>	55
<u>(F) One representative of the judicial branch of government</u>	56
<u>appointed by the chief justice of the supreme court;</u>	57
<u>(G) The directors of health and of job and family services,</u>	58
<u>and the superintendent of the state highway patrol, or their</u>	59
<u>designees; and</u>	60
<u>(H) Two representatives of local law enforcement agencies</u>	61
<u>appointed by the governor. These members shall have experience in</u>	62
<u>issues related to missing women or children or violence against</u>	63
<u>women or children.</u>	64
<u>The appointing authorities shall make initial appointments to</u>	65
<u>the commission on violence against women and children within</u>	66
<u>twenty days after the effective date of this section. Members may</u>	67
<u>be reappointed. Vacancies shall be filled in the manner provided</u>	68
<u>for original appointments and children.</u>	69
<u>Members appointed under divisions (F) and (H) of this section</u>	70
<u>shall serve terms of two years. A member appointed under those</u>	71
<u>divisions shall serve on the commission from the date of</u>	72
<u>appointment until the end of the term for which the member was</u>	73
<u>appointed. A member appointed under those divisions to fill a</u>	74
<u>vacancy occurring prior to the expiration date of the term for</u>	75
<u>which the member's predecessor was appointed shall serve on the</u>	76
<u>commission for the remainder of that term. A member appointed</u>	77
<u>under those divisions shall continue to serve on the commission</u>	78
<u>subsequent to the expiration date of the member's term until the</u>	79

member's successor is appointed or until a period of sixty days 80  
has elapsed, whichever occurs first. 81

Members shall serve without compensation but shall be 82  
reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses. 83

From among its membership, the commission shall select a 84  
chairperson. The chairperson shall select a member of the 85  
commission to serve as the commission's secretary. The department 86  
of job and family services shall provide staff and other support 87  
services as necessary for the commission to fulfill its duties. 88  
The director of job and family services shall designate an 89  
individual from the department whose duties are to include 90  
applying for grants and any other funding for the commission, and 91  
to advocate on the federal level for the prevention of violence 92  
against women and children. 93

The commission may accept gifts, grants, donations, 94  
contributions, benefits, and other funds from any public agency or 95  
private source to carry out any or all of the commission's duties. 96  
The funds shall be deposited into the prevention of violence 97  
against women and children fund, which is hereby created in the 98  
state treasury. All gifts, grants, donations, contributions, 99  
benefits, and other funds received by the commission shall be used 100  
solely to support the operations of the commission. 101

All meetings of the commission shall be held at the call of 102  
the chairperson, but the commission shall hold its initial meeting 103  
not later than sixty days after the effective date of this 104  
section. The presence of a majority of the members of the 105  
commission constitutes a quorum for the conduct of the 106  
commission's business. The concurrence of at least a majority of 107  
the members of the commission is necessary for any action to be 108  
taken by the commission. All meetings of the commission are public 109  
meetings and shall be open to the public at all times. 110

Except as provided in section 149.43 of the Revised Code and 111  
as consistent with the purposes of that section, all documents and 112  
records in the possession of the commission are public records. 113