



# Ohio Legislative Service Commission

## Bill Analysis

Jeffery A. Bernard

### Sub. S.B. 144

128th General Assembly

(As Reported by S. Health, Human Services & Aging)

Sens. R. Miller, Morano

---

## BILL SUMMARY

- Creates in the Department of Job and Family Services the Ohio Family Stability Commission and specifies the Commission's duties in each year of its four-year operation.
- Specifies that the Commission ceases to exist after it issues a report at the end of its fourth year of operation.

---

## CONTENT AND OPERATION

### Ohio Family Stability Commission

(R.C. 5101.345(A) and (C))

The bill creates the Ohio Family Stability Commission in the Department of Job and Family Services. The Commission, which is to consist of 25 members (see "**Membership**," below), must fulfill specified duties over the course of a four-year period.

#### First year of operation

During its first year of operation, the Commission must conduct research and formulate recommendations to the General Assembly, appropriate state agencies, and other appropriate entities concerning the following societal issues that impact the stability of families in Ohio: (1) the divorce rate and measures and strategies for reducing the divorce rate, (2) the birth rate among unmarried individuals and measures and strategies for reducing the number of births occurring outside of marriage, (3) the rate of domestic violence, including child abuse, and measures and strategies for reducing the rate of domestic violence, and (4) issues concerning child custody and

support. The recommendations that are formulated must provide the General Assembly, appropriate state agencies, and other appropriate entities with strategies, both legal and otherwise, for addressing the issues described above.

### **Second year of operation**

During its second year of operation, the Commission must work with the General Assembly, appropriate state agencies, and other appropriate entities to implement the recommendations formulated during the Commission's first year of operation.

### **Third year of operation**

During its third year of operation, the Commission must continue to work for the implementation of the recommendations formulated during the Commission's first year of operation and must also begin to monitor the implementation of the recommendations. The Commission is further required to issue a report to the General Assembly at the end of this year regarding the status of the implementation of the recommendations.

### **Fourth year of operation**

During its fourth year of operation, the Commission must conduct activities ensuring the continued implementation of the Commission's recommendations formulated during the Commission's first year of operation and, if applicable, the enforcement of the recommendations. The Commission is also required to issue a report to the General Assembly at the end of this year regarding the status of the implementation of the recommendations.

## **Termination of the Commission**

(R.C. 5101.345(D); Section 2)

The bill specifies that the Commission ceases to exist after it issues the report, required at the end of its fourth year of operation, regarding the status of the implementation of the recommendations formulated by the Commission during its first year of operation. The bill also specifies that its provisions are repealed on the first day of the 49th month after the bill's effective date.

## Membership

(R.C. 5101.345(A))

The Commission's membership is to consist of four members of the General Assembly and 21 persons who are government agency representatives, private citizens, or elected officials (other than General Assembly members). Of the four General Assembly members, two are to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives from different political parties and two are to be appointed by the President of the Senate from different political parties. The remaining 21 members are to be appointed by the Governor in accordance with all of the following:

- Two must have expertise in out-of-wedlock births;
- Two must have expertise in marital divorce;
- One must have expertise in education;
- One must have expertise in employment;
- One must have expertise in child support;
- One must have expertise in child custody;
- One must have expertise in child abuse and neglect;
- One must have expertise in domestic violence;
- Two must have expertise in the judicial system;
- Two must have expertise in criminal justice;
- Two must have expertise in faith-based initiatives;
- Two must have expertise in fatherhood programs;
- Two must have expertise in philanthropic or nonprofit management;
- One must have expertise in mass media or communications.

Commission members are to serve at the pleasure of their appointing authorities and vacancies are to be filled in the manner provided for original appointments. Members are to serve without compensation, except to the extent that serving is considered part of their regular duties of employment.

## Staffing

(R.C. 5101.345(B))

The Commission is to be staffed by personnel of the Department of Job and Family Services. The bill specifies, however, that this staffing requirement does not require the Department to employ personnel who the Department otherwise would not have employed.

---

## HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	06-16-09
Reported, S. Health, Human Services & Aging	01-28-10

S0144-RS-128.docx/jc

