



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Tom Middleton

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: [H.B. 575 of the 130th G.A.](#)

Date: June 2, 2014

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Reps. Baker and Anielski

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Creates the Ohio Economic Council on Women within the Development Services Agency

State Fiscal Highlights

- The bill establishes the Ohio Economic Council on Women within the Development Services Agency (DSA) to examine the economic concerns and needs of women in relation to various issues in Ohio.
- The bill creates the Economic Council on Women Fund to receive money from the federal government and private sources for the Council to use to carry out its duties; however, the bill does not include appropriations for these purposes. The bill also allows the Council to request the assistance of other state agencies and local governments in carrying out its functions.
- Any minimal administrative costs that DSA incurs in supporting Council meetings, assisting in the production of Council research and policy, and other staff support would likely be absorbed within DSA's existing appropriations for personnel and office costs.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on political subdivisions.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill creates the Ohio Economic Council on Women within the Development Services Agency (DSA). The Council is to be comprised of 15 members: (1) six members of the Ohio General Assembly, (2) four members with knowledge and experience of economic concerns of women who are jointly appointed by the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives, and (3) five other appointees of the Governor representing various groups. The bill specifies that members will not be compensated for their service on the Council, but they may be reimbursed for necessary and actual expenses incurred in performing official Council duties, such as reimbursement for gasoline costs in driving to a Council meeting. The Council is required to meet at least quarterly.

Under the bill, the Council is tasked with examining the economic concerns and needs of women in relation to various issues in Ohio. In carrying out this mission, the bill requires the Council to conduct research, hold hearings, develop recommendations and policy, educate the public, and engage in other activities for the benefit of women. The bill also requires the Council to produce a report by September 1, 2016, and biennially thereafter a report to the Governor and the General Assembly on (1) Council activities, (2) recommendations for existing resources benefitting women, (3) proposals for advancing comprehensive and coordinated services for women. The report is to be posted on the DSA website. In addition to obtaining funding from the appropriate federal and private sources, the bill allows the Council to seek assistance from state agencies and local governments.

Fiscal effect

The bill creates the Economic Council on Women Fund to receive funds from the federal government and private sources to carry out the Council's duties. However, the bill includes no appropriations from the new fund. Consequently, until the sources of federal and private revenue are identified and those amounts are appropriated, DSA will bear those costs under its existing budget, since the bill specifies that DSA is to conduct ordinary and necessary business for the Council. Although start-up costs and ongoing expenses are likely to be minimal, any costs incurred will ultimately depend on the scope of the activities pursued by the Council.