



Bob Bennett

*Bill Analysis*  
*Legislative Service Commission*

## **H.B. 195**

123rd General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

**Reps. Jones, Beatty, D. Miller, Jerse, Ford, Taylor, Grendell, Padgett, Patton, Allen, Boyd, Ogg, Hartnett, Jolivette, Opfer, Bender, Pringle, Smith, Sykes, DePiero**

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### **BILL SUMMARY**

- Creates the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood.
- Requires the Commission to organize a state summit on fatherhood every four years.
- Requires the Commission to prepare an annual report that identifies resources available to fund fatherhood-related programs and explores the creation of specified initiatives.
- Exempts the Commission from the provision of current law regarding the automatic expiration of statutorily created agencies.
- Requires the Department of Human Services to house the Commission and provide it staff and other support services.
- Creates the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood Fund in the state treasury and requires the Commission to deposit gifts, grants, donations, contributions, benefits, and other funds provided the Commission into the Fund.

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### **CONTENT AND OPERATION**

#### **Ohio Commission on Fatherhood duties**

(secs. 5101.34 and 5101.342)

The bill creates the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood. The Commission is to organize a state summit on fatherhood every four years and prepare an annual

report that identifies resources available to fund fatherhood-related programs and explores the creation of initiatives to do the following:

- (1) Build the parenting skills of fathers;
- (2) Provide employment-related services for low-income, noncustodial fathers;
- (3) Prevent premature fatherhood;
- (4) Provide services to fathers who are inmates in or have just been released from imprisonment in a state correctional institution or any other detention facility so that they are able to maintain or reestablish their relationships with their families;<sup>1</sup>
- (5) Reconcile fathers with their families;
- (6) Increase public awareness of the critical role fathers play.

The Commission is required to submit the annual report to the President and Minority Leader of the Senate, Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, Governor, and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The first report is due not later than one year after the last of the initial appointments to the Commission is made.

**Commission not subject to agency sunset law**

(sec. 5101.343)

The bill provides that state law regarding the automatic expiration of statutorily created agencies does not apply to the Commission. That law provides that an agency created by statute after January 1, 1997, automatically expires four years after its creation, unless the General Assembly takes further action to extend its life.

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<sup>1</sup> Current law defines "state correctional institution" as including any institution or facility that is operated by the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and is used for the custody, care, or treatment of criminal, delinquent, or psychologically or psychiatrically disturbed offenders. "Detention facility" is defined as any public or private place used for the confinement of a person charged with or convicted of any crime in this state or another state or under the laws of the United States or alleged or found to be a delinquent child or unruly child in this state or another state or under the laws of the United States.

### **Commission membership**

(sec. 5101.34)

The Commission is to consist of the following 17 members.

(1) Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, each from a different political party, and two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, each from a different political party. These members must be from legislative districts that include a county or part of a county that is among the one-third of counties in this state with the highest number per capita of households headed by females.

(2) The Governor, or the Governor's designee;

(3) One representative of the judicial branch of government appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court;

(4) The Directors of Health, Human Services, Rehabilitation and Correction, and Youth Services and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, or their designees;

(5) One representative of the Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council appointed by the Chairperson of the Council;

(6) Five representatives of the general public appointed by the Governor. These members must have extensive experience in issues related to fatherhood.

The appointing authorities are required to make initial appointments to the Commission within 30 days after the bill's effective date.

### **Terms of membership**

(sec. 5101.34)

Of the initial members of the Commission representing the judicial branch, the Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council, and the general public, three are to serve a one-year term and four are to serve a two-year term. Such subsequent members are to serve two-year terms. A member of the Commission representing the General Assembly is to serve until the end of the General Assembly from which the member was appointed or until the member ceases to serve in the chamber of the General Assembly in which the member serves at the time of appointment, whichever occurs first. The Governor or the Governor's designee is to serve until the Governor ceases to be Governor. The Directors of

Health, Human Services, Rehabilitation and Correction, and Youth Services and the Superintendent of Public Instruction or their designees are to serve until they cease, or the Director or Superintendent a designee represents ceases, to be Director or Superintendent.

The bill provides that each member is to serve from the date of appointment until the end of the term for which the member was appointed. Members may be reappointed. Vacancies are to be filled in the manner provided for original appointments. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration date of the term for which the member's predecessor was appointed is to serve for the remainder of that term. A member is to continue to serve subsequent to the expiration date of the member's term until the member's successor is appointed or until a period of 60 days has elapsed, whichever occurs first.

**Compensation for members**

(sec. 5101.34)

The bill provides that the members of the Commission are to serve without compensation. Members are to be reimbursed for necessary expenses.

**Chairperson**

(sec. 5101.341)

The Commission is required to elect a chairperson annually. The chairperson must be a member of the Commission.

**Department of Human Services to house Commission and provide staff**

(secs. 5101.34 and 5101.341)

The Commission is to be housed in the Department of Human Services. The Department is required to provide staff and other support services for the Commission.

**Ohio Commission on Fatherhood Fund**

(sec. 5101.341)

The bill creates the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood Fund in the state treasury. Gifts, grants, donations, contributions, benefits, and other funds the Commission is authorized to accept from any public agency or private source to carry out any or all of the Commission's duties are to be deposited into the Fund and used solely to support the operations of the Commission.

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## HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	02-17-99	pp. 214-215

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