



Bob Bennett

Bill Analysis

Legislative Service Commission

H.B. 226

123rd General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Ford, Salerno, Allen, Barrett, Bender, Boyd, Britton, Callender, DePiero, Flannery, Grendell, Hartnett, Healy, Jerse, Jolivette, Jones, Logan, Lucas, Metelsky, D. Miller, R. Miller, Ogg, Opfer, Perry, Pringle, Roberts, Smith, Sullivan, Sutton, Thomas, Verich, Vesper, Wilson, Winkler

BILL SUMMARY

- Creates the Commission on Youth and Suicide to exist for five years.
- Requires the Commission, among other duties, to do the following to aid youth at risk for suicide: recommend programs and policies, conduct research to determine the nature and extent of the problems they face, implement appropriate new programs and demonstration projects, and develop and implement community education and public awareness programs.
- Provides for the Commission to consist of not more than 21 members.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Creation and duties of Commission on Youth and Suicide

The bill establishes the Commission on Youth and Suicide to exist for five years.¹ The Commission is to do all of the following:

¹ Revised Code section 101.84 provides that an entity of state government that is created after January 1, 1997 is considered to have been created on December 31 of the year prior to the year in which the enabling legislation was enacted and must expire on a date specified in that legislation that is not later than four years after the creation date. Because the Commission is to exist for five years, the bill provides that R.C. 101.84 does not apply to the Commission.

(1) Make recommendations to the Governor, General Assembly, state agencies, school districts, schools, and any private entities about the creation of programs and policies that will assist youth at risk for suicide in school;

(2) Conduct research to determine the nature and extent of the problems at-risk youth face;

(3) Hold public hearings to collect data;

(4) Implement appropriate new programs and demonstration projects especially designed for at-risk youth;

(5) Develop and implement community education and public awareness programs especially designed for at-risk youth;

(6) Report to the Governor and General Assembly at least biennially on the activities, findings, and recommendations of the Commission;

(7) Accept gifts, grants, donations, contributions, benefits, and other funds from any public agency or private source to carry out any or all of its powers or duties and to be used solely to support its operations. Such funds are to be deposited in the Commission on Youth and Suicide Fund which the bill creates in the state treasury.

Members and chairperson

The Commission on Youth and Suicide is to consist of not more than 21 members. The Commission is to include the following members from the General Assembly: two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House; one member of the House appointed by the House Minority Leader; two members of the Senate appointed by the Senate President; and one member of the Senate appointed by the Senate Minority Leader. The following administrative officers, or their designees, are also to be among the members: the Directors of Health, Human Services, Youth Services, Mental Health, and Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services; the Executive Director of the Ohio Civil Rights Commission; the Superintendent of Public Instruction; and the Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents. In addition, the Governor is to appoint not more than seven members, including at least two high school students who are fellow students and friends of students who have committed suicide, two parents of children who have committed suicide, and two high school teachers. The Governor, Speaker of the House, Senate President, and Minority Leaders of the House and Senate are required to make their appointments within 90 days of the bill's effective date.

The Commission must elect a chairperson from among its members annually.

Terms of membership

The bill provides that members of the Commission are to serve for the five-year period the Commission exists. A House or Senate member ceases to be a member of the Commission when he or she ceases to serve in the legislative chamber from which he or she was appointed. A high school student appointed by the Governor may continue serving despite graduating. Vacancies are to be filled in the manner provided for original appointments.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	03-03-99	p. 262

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