



Jeff Grim

Bill Analysis

Legislative Service Commission

S.B. 109

123rd General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sens. Schafrath, Shoemaker, DiDonato

BILL SUMMARY

- Establishes the temporary Joint Legislative Committee on Agricultural Production Operations to examine the existing and projected economic, social, and environmental impacts of agricultural production operations in Ohio and factors that may have an impact on the economic status of those operations and to make recommendations for legislative and administrative action to address those impacts.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

The bill establishes the temporary Joint Legislative Committee on Agricultural Production Operations consisting of three members of the Senate and three members of the House of Representatives. Two of the Senate members are to be appointed by the President of the Senate and one by the Minority Leader of the Senate. The Speaker of the House of Representatives will appoint two of the House members, and the Minority Leader of the House will appoint the third House member of the Committee. The appointments must be made within 15 days after the bill's effective date.

Under the bill, the chairperson of the Committee is to be appointed by the President of the Senate from among the Senate members of the Committee, and the vice-chairperson is to be appointed by the Speaker of the House from among the House members of the Committee. The chairperson, vice-chairperson, and members of the Committee are to serve until the Committee ceases to exist unless they cease to be members of the General Assembly before that time. Vacancies on the Committee must be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the same manner as original appointments.

Under the bill, meetings of the Committee are to be held upon the call of the chairperson or upon the written request of at least four of its members. Four

members constitute a quorum, and no action can be taken unless approved by at least four members.

Members of the Committee are to serve without compensation in addition to their regular legislative salaries. However, the members must be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in performing their official duties as members of the Committee. The bill directs that the reimbursements of members' expenses be made from moneys appropriated to pay the expenses of legislative committees.

The bill requires that all state agencies and departments, including, without limitation, state-supported colleges and universities, assist the Committee in carrying out its responsibilities. (Section 2.)

The bill requires the Committee to hold at least three public hearings in Columbus. At the public hearings, the Committee must receive testimony regarding the current and projected economic, social, and environmental impacts of agricultural production operations within Ohio and factors that may have an impact on the economic status of agricultural production operations within the state, such as marketing strategies and the location of processing plants, and suggested legislative and administrative action to address those impacts and factors. (Section 3(A).) For the bill's purposes, "agricultural production" has the same meaning as in the Agricultural Districts Law. (Section 1.)

The Committee is authorized to supplement the testimony received at the public hearings through its own research and review of relevant studies, reports, or compilations of data. It must examine the experiences of other states with agricultural production operations and the programs that other states have established to address the economic, social, and environmental impacts resulting from those operations. (Section 3(B).)

The Committee must prepare and submit a written report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives within 12 months after the bill's effective date. The report must contain the Committee's findings regarding the current and projected economic, social, and environmental impacts of agricultural production operations in Ohio and recommendations for legislative and administrative action necessary to address those impacts while taking into consideration society's needs for efficient agricultural production and low-cost food and fiber. Upon submission of the report, the Committee ceases to exist.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	03-16-99	p. 205

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