



H.B. 590

124th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

**Reps. Manning, Widowfield, Reinhard, DeWine, Calvert, Faber, Otterman,
Sullivan, Jerse, Beatty, Allen, Buehrer**

BILL SUMMARY

- Establishes the Ohio Polymer Industry Advisory Council, to consist of 11 voting members and four nonvoting members.
- Charges the Governor with appointing the 11 voting members with the advice and consent of the Senate, pursuant to member qualifications and geographic distribution requirements specified in the bill.
- Directs the Speaker of the House of Representatives and President of the Senate to each appoint two nonvoting members from the membership of their respective legislative bodies.
- Establishes initial and continuing terms of office and procedures for filling vacancies.
- Specifies that the Council meet at least once each six months or more frequently as provided in the bill, and establishes that eight members constitutes a quorum and that an affirmative vote of at least six members is required for action.
- Specifies that members serve without compensation but are reimbursed for expenses.
- Directs the Department of Development to provide specified support services.
- Establishes permitted actions of the Council to include reviewing existing and proposed laws as they relate to the polymer and liquid crystal industries, identifying problems of the industries, analyzing technology

- commercialization and other matters relevant to the future of the industries, and advising federal, state and local government officials.
- Requires the Council to submit to specified persons an annual report that describes the Council's activities during the year and that a member of the Council provide testimony concerning the report to specified standing committees of the General Assembly.
 - Stipulates that the Council expires on December 31, 2005 unless renewed in accordance with continuing law in the Revised Code.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

The Ohio Polymer Industry Advisory Council

The bill creates the Ohio Polymer Industry Advisory Council, to consist of 11 voting members and four nonvoting members. The bill requires the Governor to appoint the 11 voting members, with the advice and consent of the Senate, and to designate one of the appointed members to serve as the chairperson of the Council. (Sec. 122.97(A).)

Expertise of Governor's appointees

The bill directs that each of the Governor's appointees be an expert in at least one of the following fields (sec. 122.97(A)):

- Polymer technology or liquid crystal technology;
- Issues facing private enterprises that conduct business in the polymer or liquid crystal industries;
- Commercialization of polymer or liquid crystal technology;
- Other fields that the Governor determines are relevant to the mission of the Council.

The bill further requires that nine of the appointees be employees or former employees of private enterprises that conduct business in the polymer or liquid crystal industries. (Sec. 122.97(B).)

Geographic distribution of Governor's appointees

The bill directs the Governor to make appointments so that the members represent what the Governor determines are the various geographical regions of

the state. The bill stipulates that at least six members represent northeastern Ohio. Of those six members, one must be a faculty member of The Kent State University and another must be a faculty member of The University of Akron. (Sec. 122.97(B).)

Political affiliation of Governor's appointees

The bill stipulates that no more than six of the Governor's appointees may be members of the same political party. (Sec. 122.97(B).)

Legislative appointees

The bill directs the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives to each appoint two members from different political parties in their respective legislative bodies to be members of the Council and serve as nonvoting members of the Council. (Sec. 122.97(C).)

Terms of office

The bill specifies that members appointed by the Governor serve for three years from the date of appointment, and the legislative members serve for the biennial session of the General Assembly in which they are appointed. Each member holds office from the date of appointment until the end of the term for which appointed, except that a voting member continues in office until a successor is appointed, or 60 days after the expiration of the term, whichever occurs first. Under the bill, vacancies are to be filled in the manner provided for original appointments and a member appointed to fill a vacancy holds office as a member for the remainder of that term. (Sec. 122.97(D).)

Meetings

The bill requires the Council to meet at least once each six months, but it may meet more frequently on the chairperson's call or at the request of seven or more members. The bill stipulates that eight members constitute a quorum, and that the Council may not take official action without the affirmative vote of at least six members. The bill permits the Council to elect officers in addition to the chairperson as the Council considers necessary. (Sec. 122.97(E).)

Compensation

Under the bill, members receive no compensation but are to be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. (Sec. 122.97(F).)



Department of Development duties

The bill directs the Department of Development, at the request of the Council, to provide the Council with meeting space, staff services, and other technical assistance. The Department is to assist the Council with the cost of production and distribution of Council reports from the general operating budget of the Department. (Sec. 122.97(G).)

Permissive actions of the Council

The bill permits the Council to do any of the following (sec. 122.971(A)):

- Review existing and proposed laws, rules, and policies of the state or the United States that affect or may affect the growth and viability of the polymer and liquid crystal industries in the state;
- Identify problems that the polymer and liquid crystal industries in the state face at any particular time, including problems arising from foreign competition or the economic climate in the state;
- Analyze technology commercialization and other matters relevant to the future of the polymer and liquid crystal industries in the state;
- Advise federal, state, and local government officials on questions and matters affecting the polymer and liquid crystal industries in the state.

Required actions of the Council

The bill requires the Council to submit an annual report not later than the first day of October of each year to the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, the President and Minority Leader of the Senate, and the Chairpersons of the standing committees of the House of Representatives and Senate to which matters concerning economic development normally are referred. The bill also requires the Council to submit the report to the Director of Development, who makes copies of the report available to members of the public upon request, keeping a record of all requests. (Sec. 122.971(B).)

The bill requires the report to describe the Council's activities during the previous year and permits the report to do any of the following (sec. 122.971(B)):

- Propose methods to expand the polymer and liquid crystal industries in the state;

- Identify problems facing the polymer and liquid crystal industries in the state that were discovered during the Council's activities;
- Make recommendations to modify state statutes, rules, or policies.

Testimony on report

The bill requires that after the Council submits its annual report, a member of the Council designated by the Chairperson provide testimony concerning the report to the standing committees of the General Assembly to which matters concerning economic development normally are referred, or at a joint hearing or hearings of those committees that is set for that purpose. (Sec. 122.971(B).)

Timing of Governor's appointments

The bill requires the Governor to make initial appointments not later than 90 days after the effective date of the act and establishes initial terms of appointments. (Section 3.)

Expiration of Council

The bill provides that the Council will cease to exist on December 31, 2005 unless the Council is renewed by the General Assembly in accordance with the "Sunset Review" law. (Section 4.)

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	05-24-02	p. 1814

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