



S.B. 176

125th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sens. Miller, Randy Gardner, Zurz, Stivers, Mallory, Fingerhut, Dann,
Prentiss, Fedor, Jacobson

BILL SUMMARY

- Establishes the Ohio African-American Hall of Fame.
- Creates the Ohio African-American Hall of Fame Governing Board to select and induct persons into the Hall of Fame.
- Appropriates \$200,000 from the General Revenue Fund for each of fiscal years 2004 and 2005 for the Hall of Fame.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Hall of Fame established

(R.C. 149.305)

The bill requires the Ohio Historical Society to establish the Ohio African-American Hall of Fame in consultation with the Ohio African-American Hall of Fame Governing Board, which is created by the bill. The purpose of the Hall of Fame is to provide recognition to African Americans who have made significant contributions to Ohio. The Governing Board is to select the persons to be inducted into the Hall of Fame and conduct an annual induction ceremony in Columbus.

In order to establish the Hall of Fame, the Historical Society is authorized to accept donations of money, property, and personal services; apply for and receive federal assistance; acquire real property or any estate, right, or interest in real property; construct buildings, access roads, parking areas, and other appropriate facilities for visitors; and exercise any other powers incidental to the

purpose of the bill.¹ Donations of money are to be placed in a separate account within the funds of the Historical Society to be used solely for the necessary expenses of the Society incurred in the performance of its duties under the bill.

Initially, portraits of and biographical information regarding persons inducted into the Hall of Fame are to be housed and displayed in an appropriate space located within the Ohio Historical Center in Columbus. The bill requires the Historical Society to consult with the Governing Board on the selection of a permanent Hall of Fame site and the acquisition of any real property for that purpose, on the design, plans, and specifications for the construction or modification of any buildings or other visitation facilities for the Hall of Fame, and on the establishment of an acquisition policy for the Hall of Fame.

After a permanent site is established for the Hall of Fame, the Historical Society must convey title to the Hall of Fame and its contents to a private, nonprofit organization that is to operate and maintain it. The bill requires the Historical Society to determine the conditions of the conveyance, subject to Governing Board approval. The Historical Society is required to operate and maintain the Hall of Fame until it is so conveyed. The organization to which the Hall of Fame is conveyed is required to consult with the Governing Board on its operation and maintenance. Any historical items or artifacts donated to the Historical Society or to the organization for placement in the Hall of Fame must remain at the Hall of Fame as part of its permanent collection.

Lastly, the bill provides that Central State University also is to serve as a repository of information regarding persons inducted into the Hall of Fame. The University is to consult with the Governing Board on the manner and location in which the information is housed and displayed.

Hall of Fame Governing Board

(R.C. 149.306)

The Ohio African-American Hall of Fame Governing Board is created by the bill to advise the Historical Society in the performance of its duties, as described above, and to select and induct persons into the African-American Hall of Fame. The Board is to consist of 13 voting members who have demonstrated interest in preserving African-American history. Those members are to be appointed as follows:

¹ Pursuant to current law, any instrument by which real property is acquired under the bill must identify the state agency that has the use and benefit of the real property (R.C. 149.305(G)).

- (1) Three members appointed by the Governor;
- (2) Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- (3) Two members appointed by the President of the Senate;
- (4) Two members appointed by the Chair of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus;
- (5) One member appointed by the National Museum of Afro-American History and Culture Planning Committee;
- (6) One member appointed by the Board of Directors of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center;
- (7) One member appointed by the Board of Trustees of the Ohio Historical Society;
- (8) One member appointed by the Board of Trustees of the Ohioana Library Association.

The bill authorizes the Governing Board to accept donations of historical items and artifacts for placement in the Hall of Fame and requires the Board to house those items and artifacts at the Ohio Historical Center in Columbus until a permanent Hall of Fame site is established. At that time, the Governing Board must convey all donated items and artifacts to the private, nonprofit organization to which the Historical Society conveys the Hall of Fame. All historical items and artifacts so conveyed are to remain at the Hall of Fame as part of its permanent collection. The Governing Board is required to advise the organization to which the Historical Society conveys the Hall of Fame concerning its operation and maintenance.

Initial appointments to the Governing Board must be made within 90 days after the bill's effective date. Of those initial appointments, the terms of the following members end one year after the bill's effective date: (1) one member appointed by the Governor, (2) one member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, (3) one member appointed by the President of the Senate, (4) one member appointed by the Chair of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus, (5) the member appointed by the Board of Directors of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, and (6) the member appointed by the Board of Trustees of the Ohioana Library Association. The initial terms of all other members end two years after the bill's effective date. Thereafter, terms for all members are for two years.

Each member is to hold office from the date of the member's appointment until the end of the term for which the member was appointed. Members may be reappointed. Vacancies must 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 must hold office as a member for the remainder of that term. A member is required to continue in office subsequent to the expiration date of the member's term until the member's successor takes office or until a period of 60 days has elapsed, whichever occurs first.

The bill requires the Governing Board to elect a chairperson from its membership. It is to meet at least four times per year and keep a record of its proceedings, which must be open to the public for inspection. A written notice of the time and place of each meeting must be sent to each member. A majority of the members of the Governing Board constitute a quorum.

All members of the Governing Board are to serve without compensation, but are to be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties. The expenses of the Governing Board are to be paid out of the appropriated subsidy to the Historical Society. The Historical Society is authorized to provide any necessary staff or services required by the Governing Board. Compensation for those services also is to be paid out of the appropriated subsidy to the Historical Society.

The bill states that the Governing Board is not subject to the Sunset Review Committee Law (R.C. 101.82 to 101.87, not in the bill).

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	01-06-04	p. 1312

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