



Sub. S.B. 176*

125th General Assembly

(As Reported by S. Finance & Financial Institutions)

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.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Hall of Fame established

(R.C. 149.305(A) to (D) and (F))

The bill requires the Ohio Historical Society to cooperate with the Ohio African-American Hall of Fame Governing Board, which is created by the bill, to establish the Ohio African-American Hall of Fame. 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.

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 and the Governing Board to cooperate in the selection of a permanent Hall of Fame site. Before any real property is acquired or accepted for that purpose, they are to consult on the design, plans, and specifications for the

** This analysis was prepared before the report of the Senate Finance and Financial Institutions Committee appeared in the Senate Journal. Note that the list of co-sponsors and the legislative history may be incomplete.*

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.¹

After a permanent site is selected for the Hall of Fame, the Historical Society and the Governing Board must establish a private, nonprofit organization that is to acquire title to, operate, and maintain it. The Historical Society is required to operate and maintain the Hall of Fame until it is conveyed to the private, nonprofit organization.

The Historical Society is authorized to accept donations of historical items and artifacts for placement in the Hall of Fame and is required to house them at the Ohio Historical Center in Columbus. After a permanent Hall of Fame site is selected, the Historical Society is to cooperate with the private, nonprofit organization to loan those items and artifacts for interpretive purposes of the Hall of Fame. Any historical items or artifacts donated to the private, nonprofit organization for placement in the Hall of Fame are to remain the property of 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 raise funds for the Ohio African-American Hall of Fame, to commission a business plan for implementation of the Hall of Fame, to advise the Historical Society in the performance of its duties, as described above, and to select and induct persons into the 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) Three members appointed by the Governor;
- (2) Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

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)).

- (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 selected. At that time, the Governing Board must convey all donated items and artifacts to the private, nonprofit organization established under the bill. All historical items and artifacts so conveyed are to remain the property of the Hall of Fame as part of its permanent collection. The Governing Board is required to advise the organization concerning the operation and maintenance of the Hall of Fame.

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 African-American Hall of Fame Fund created by the bill (see below). 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 Fund.

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).

Hall of Fame Fund

(R.C. 149.305(E))

The bill creates the African-American Hall of Fame Fund as a custodial fund, and specifies that all donations of money, grants, and other assistance received for purposes of the Ohio African-American Hall of Fame are to be deposited into the Fund. Money in the Fund is to be used for the expenses of the Historical Society incurred in the performance of its duties under the bill and for the expenses of the Hall of Fame, including the reimbursement of Governing Board members.

The bill requires the Treasurer of State to disburse money from the Fund on order of the Historical Society and to invest any portion of the Fund not needed for immediate use in the same manner as, and subject to all provisions of law with respect to the investment of, state funds.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	01-06-04	p. 1312
Reported, S. Finance & Financial Institutions	---	---

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