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Bill Analysis
Legislative Service Commission

H.B. 369

126th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Driehaus, Yates

BILL SUMMARY

- Adds the following persons to the list of public officials required to file an annual financial disclosure statement with the appropriate ethics commission: each member of a board of trustees of a regional transit authority, the chief executive officer of a regional transit authority, each member of a metropolitan housing authority, and the chief executive officer of a metropolitan housing authority.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Continuing law

Financial disclosure statements

Continuing law requires various public officials, such as members of the State Board of Education and the executive director and the members of the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board, to file a financial disclosure statement with the appropriate ethics commission. The disclosure statement must identify certain financial, investment, and gift information regarding the public official and members of the public official's immediate family. The required information includes the sources and amounts of income received, the amounts of certain business and property investments, the identification of persons to whom the person filing the statement owes debts of more than \$1,000, and the source of gifts made to and the payment of expenses for travel, meals, and other food and beverages made on behalf of the person filing the statement. The statement must be filed on an annual basis on or before April 15, or, if the person is appointed or employed after that date, within 90 days after appointment or employment. (R.C. 102.02.)

Regional transit authorities

Under continuing law, a regional transit authority (RTA) may be created by any county, any two or more counties, municipal corporations, or townships, or any combination of these entities for one or more of a variety of purposes generally pertaining to the provision of transit facilities (mass transit systems and their supporting infrastructure). The board of trustees of an RTA created by the exclusive action of a county must be appointed by the board of county commissioners of that county. A board of trustees created by two or more political subdivisions must consist of the number of members having the qualifications provided for in the resolutions or ordinances creating the RTA. Similarly, the creating resolutions or ordinances, or any amendments to them, may establish which public officers will have appointing authority for the members of the board of trustees. (R.C. 306.31, 306.32, and 306.33--*not in the bill.*)

Metropolitan housing authorities

Under continuing law, the Director of Development determines the need for a metropolitan housing authority within specified territorial limits of a county based on (1) the existence of unsanitary or unsafe inhabited housing accommodations in that area or (2) on the shortage of safe and sanitary housing accommodations in that area available to persons who lack the necessary income without financial assistance to live in decent, safe, and sanitary dwellings without congestion. The authority is granted specific powers for the purpose of clearing, planning, and rebuilding slum areas within the district in which the authority is created and providing safe and sanitary housing accommodations to families of low income within that district. Members of the authority are appointed. Depending upon the population of the district, members of the authority may be appointed by any of the following: the legislative authority of the most populous city in the district; the chief executive officer of the most populous city in the district; the chief executive officer, with the approval of the legislative authority, of the city in the district that has the second highest number of housing units owned or managed by the authority; the chief executive officer of the city in the district with the largest ratio of units owned or managed by the authority to the city's population; the probate court; the court of common pleas; or the board of county commissioners. (R.C. 3735.27 and 3735.31--*not in the bill.*)

Changes proposed by the bill

The bill adds the following persons to the list of public officials required to file financial disclosure statements with the appropriate ethics commission (R.C. 102.02(A)):

- Every member of the board of trustees of a regional transit authority;

- The chief executive officer of a regional transit authority;
- Every member of a metropolitan housing authority;
- The chief executive officer of a metropolitan housing authority.

The bill does not change the timing or process for filing financial disclosure statements. Thus, under the bill, these public officials must file their financial disclosure statements according to the same process, and at the same times, as other public officials file those statements under existing law. (R.C. 102.02.) The statements must be filed with the "appropriate ethics commission," which, for these officials, is the Ohio Ethics Commission (R.C. 102.01(F)--*unchanged by the bill*).

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	10-05-05

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