



**H.B. 689**

126th General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

Reps. Trakas, Key, Mason, DeGeeter, J. McGregor, Combs

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**BILL SUMMARY**

- Creates the North East Ohio Universities Collaboration and Innovation Study Commission regarding the University of Akron, Cleveland State University, Kent State University, the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine, and Youngstown State University.
- Requires the Commission to make recommendations on further collaborations among those universities and develop a more unified approach to the delivery of high quality higher education services in Northeast Ohio.
- Makes an appropriation to fund the activities of the Commission.

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**CONTENT AND OPERATION**

**North East Ohio Universities Collaboration and Innovation Study Commission**

(Section 1(A) and (B))

With regard to the University of Akron, Cleveland State University, Kent State University, the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine, and Youngstown State University, the bill establishes the North East Ohio Universities Collaboration and Innovation Study Commission. The purpose of the Commission is to develop a plan and to make legislative or other logistical recommendations for the following: (1) strategic and purposeful collaboration among the institutions, (2) partnering among the institutions of both undergraduate and graduate academic programs, (3) sharing of at least some governance mechanisms, particularly as they relate to common basic functions, among the institutions, and (4) development of a unified approach to public higher education in Northeast Ohio whereby the institutions, while maintaining their separate identities, will share academic, administrative, and student support resources and

programs. The ultimate goal of the recommendations is to promote lower costs and greater access for students and an overall improved quality of higher education in Northeast Ohio.

### **Commission membership**

(Section 1(B))

The Commission is to consist of 15 members comprised as follows: (1) two members appointed by the board of trustees of each of the institutions described above, (2) two members appointed by the Ohio Board of Regents, (3) one member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, (4) one member appointed by the President of the Senate, and (5) one member appointed by the Governor. The members must be appointed not later than 30 days after the effective date of the bill and a vacancy on the Commission must be filed in the same manner as the original appointment. Commission members are to receive no compensation for their services.

### **Commission officers and employees**

(Section 1(B))

At its organizational meeting, the Commission must elect a chairman from among the existing appointees. In addition, the Commission may employ an executive director and such other staff as it determines necessary to carry out its duties.

### **Commission report and termination**

(Section 1(A) and (C))

The Commission must submit its plan and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly in writing not later than 12 months after the bill's effective date. The Commission will cease to exist upon making the submission.

### **Appropriation**

(Section 2)

The bill appropriates \$200,000 from the General Revenue Fund in fiscal year 2007 to the Ohio Board of Regents to be used to support the activities of the Commission.



**Effective date**

(Section 3)

The bill provides that its provisions, if enacted, will not be subject to the referendum and will take effect immediately upon the Governor's signature.

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**HISTORY**

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	11-28-06

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