



S.B. 58

126th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sens. Wilson, Brady, Dann, Fedor, Fingerhut, Hagan, Mallory, Miller, Prentiss, Roberts, Zurz

BILL SUMMARY

- Creates the Legislative Audit Commission and the Office of Legislative Auditor to conduct program evaluations of state agencies and of specified state-funded or state-operated programs and activities and to make recommendations to the General Assembly about how agencies, programs, or activities can operate more efficiently.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Legislative Audit Commission

The bill creates the Legislative Audit Commission to evaluate state agencies, and specified programs and other activities carried out, entered into, or funded by the state, to determine whether and the degree to which the agencies, programs, and activities are accomplishing their goals and objectives. The Commission is required to appoint a Legislative Auditor to conduct program evaluations under the Commission's direction and in accordance with the bill (see below). (R.C. 115.01(A).)

The Commission consists of the President and President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the chair of the Senate Ways and Means and Economic Development Committee, the chair of the Senate Finance and Financial Institutions Committee, four members of the Senate appointed by the Senate Minority Leader, the Speaker and Speaker Pro Tempore of the House of Representatives, the chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, the chair of the House Finance and Appropriations Committee, and four members of the House appointed by the House Minority Leader--a total of 16 members (R.C. 115.01(A)).

The bill requires the appointed members to serve for a term commencing with their appointment and expiring at the beginning of the regular session of the General Assembly in the next succeeding odd-numbered year. An appointed

member must continue in office after the expiration of the member's term until a successor is appointed or until a period of 60 days elapses, whichever occurs first. The other Commission members must serve for as long as they continue to hold their legislative officer or chair position. Vacancies must be filled in the same manner as original appointments. (R.C. 115.01(B)(1).)

The Commission must meet in January of each odd-numbered year to elect a chair and other necessary officers. The chair must serve a two-year term, expiring in January in the odd-numbered year next following the chair's election. The chair position will alternate biennially between the Senate and the House of Representatives. (R.C. 115.01(B)(2).)

The members of the Commission will serve without compensation, but must be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties. The Legislative Auditor will serve at the Commission's pleasure, and the Commission must set the salary of the Legislative Auditor. With the approval of the Commission, the Legislative Auditor must employ all necessary staff and set their salaries. (R.C. 115.01(B)(3) and (C).)

The Commission must meet at the call of its chair or the Legislative Auditor (R.C. 115.01(D)).

Program evaluations by the Legislative Auditor

Under the bill, program evaluations of covered agencies, programs, or activities must include, but are not limited to, a critical analysis of the applicable goals and objectives; measurement of program, activity, or agency results and effectiveness; examination of alternative means of achieving the same results; and measurement of the efficiency of program, activity, or agency allocation of resources. The evaluations are ultimately to determine whether and the degree to which the covered agencies, programs, and activities are accomplishing their goals and objectives. (R.C. 115.02(A).)

After completion of any program evaluation, the Legislative Auditor must prepare and publish a report that includes findings and any recommendations on improving effectiveness, reducing the cost of providing state services, and eliminating overlapping or duplicative services of another agency. The Legislative Auditor is required to file the report with the Commission, and the Commission must furnish a copy to the clerk of each house of the General Assembly, the Governor, and each affected state agency. The report must be made available to the public under the Public Records Law through the offices of the clerks. After filing a report with the Commission, the Legislative Auditor may periodically conduct a follow-up evaluation to assess changes occurring in the program, activity, or agency covered by the report. (R.C. 115.02(B).)



HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
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