



# Ohio Legislative Service Commission

## Bill Analysis

Megan Cummiskey

### **H.B. 447**

129th General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

**Reps.** Stinziano, J. Adams, Antonio, Cera, Goyal, Henne, Letson, Phillips, Yuko

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## **BILL SUMMARY**

- Creates the Economic Gardening Technical Assistance Pilot Program in the Department of Development to provide eligible businesses with services related to marketing, market research, and the development of business connections.
- Provides for the repeal of the Program after two years.
- Appropriates \$250,000 per year to the pilot program in fiscal years 2012 and 2013.

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## **CONTENT AND OPERATION**

### **Economic Gardening Technical Assistance Pilot Program**

The bill creates the Economic Gardening Technical Assistance Pilot Program. Under the two-year program, the Department of Development may provide technical assistance to eligible businesses, including assistance in market research, marketing, and the development of connections with trade associations, academic institutions, business advocacy groups, peer-based learning sessions, mentoring programs, and other businesses. The Director may contract or coordinate with one or more persons to aid in the administration and operation of the program.

#### **Eligibility and selection criteria**

A business is eligible to receive assistance under the pilot program if it is for-profit, has between six and 99 employees, generates between \$750,000 and \$25 million in annual revenue, has maintained its principal place of business in Ohio for the previous two years, and has increased its gross revenue and number of full-time Ohio employees during three of the past five years.

When selecting eligible businesses to assist under the program, the Director of Development must select businesses from more than one industry and, to the extent practicable, businesses that are geographically distributed throughout the state. Once selected, a business must agree to attend a specified number of meetings with the Director, to provide the Director with financial and job creation data, and to comply with any additional reporting requirements the Director requires.<sup>1</sup>

### **Program report**

Within one year after the creation of the program, the Director must publish a report that evaluates the effectiveness of the program, recommends any changes, and details the number of businesses assisted under the program, the types and locations of such businesses, the number of full-time jobs created as a result of the assistance, and the total compensation paid to full-time employees whose jobs were created as a result of the assistance. The Director must provide the report to the Governor, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, and the Majority Leader (President) and Minority Leader of the Senate, and publish the report on the Department of Development's web site.<sup>2</sup>

### **Rulemaking**

The bill permits the Director of Development to adopt rules in accordance with Ohio's Administrative Procedure Act that are necessary for the administration of the Economic Gardening Technical Assistance Pilot Program.<sup>3</sup>

### **Termination of the Program**

The bill provides that the Economic Gardening Technical Assistance Pilot Program is to terminate two years after the bill's effective date.<sup>4</sup>

### **Appropriations for the Program**

In both fiscal years 2012 and 2013, the bill appropriates \$250,000 for the Economic Gardening Technical Assistance Pilot Program out of the General Revenue Fund.

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<sup>1</sup> Section 1, divisions (A) through (C).

<sup>2</sup> Section 1, division (D).

<sup>3</sup> Section 1, division (E); R.C. Chapter 119., not in the bill.

<sup>4</sup> Section 2.

## Effective date

The bill states that it is not subject to the referendum and therefore takes effect immediately when signed by the Governor or when it becomes law without the Governor's signature.<sup>5</sup>

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## COMMENT

The Department of Development was renamed the Development Services Agency and its duties were substantially modified in Am. Sub. S.B. 314 of the 129th General Assembly.

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## HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	02-09-12

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<sup>5</sup> Section 4.

