



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Peter A. Cooper

H.B. 218

130th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Rosenberg and Dovilla, Scherer, Reece, Smith, Baker, Fedor, Buchy

BILL SUMMARY

- Provides for the creation of an "entrepreneur in residence" program by the Governor's Small Business Advisory Council.
- Program is intended to "provide for better outreach by state government to small businesses, to strengthen coordination and interaction between state government and small businesses, and to make state government programs and functions simpler, easier to access, more efficient, and more responsive to the needs of small businesses."
- Between three and five state agencies that affect small businesses are selected to participate in the program by being assigned an entrepreneur who is representative of small business for a one-year tenure.
- Entrepreneurs assigned to an agency would educate small businesses about the state agency, hold sessions for agency employees on issues of concern to small businesses, advise the agency on how its functions can be improved, give technical assistance to small businesses in accessing the agency's services, and make recommendations to the agency to enable it to further the mission of the entrepreneur in residence program.
- Entrepreneurs would receive expense reimbursements but no compensation.
- Requires the Small Business Advisory Council to evaluate the program and recommend whether it is to be continued.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

"Entrepreneur in residence" program

The bill requires the Small Business Advisory Council in the Governor's office to establish and operate an "entrepreneur in residence" pilot program. The stated mission of the program is to "provide for better outreach by state government to small businesses, to strengthen coordination and interaction between state government and small businesses, and to make state government programs and functions simpler, easier to access, more efficient, and more responsive to the needs of small businesses."¹

Under the program, the Council would designate between three and five state agencies to participate by having an entrepreneur in residence assigned to each agency. To be designated, an agency's programs and functions would have to affect small businesses. The assigned person must be someone who is representative of small businesses and who is successful in their field. For the bill's purposes, a small business is an independently owned and operated for-profit or nonprofit business operating in Ohio with fewer than 500 full-time employees or annual gross sales of less than \$6 million.² The assignment would last one year.

Duties

The duties of entrepreneurs in residence would be the following:

--Facilitate meetings to educate small business owners and operators of the agency's functions and programs that affect small businesses;

--Facilitate in-service sessions with agency employees on "issues of concern" to small businesses;

--Advise the agency on how its functions and programs might be improved to further the program's mission;

--Provide technical assistance or mentorships to small businesses in accessing the agency's functions and programs.

Entrepreneurs in residence would report to and serve at the pleasure of the agency director and could be discharged by the director without cause, although a discharged person could be assigned to another agency for the remainder of the one-

¹ R.C. 107.631.

² R.C. 107.63.



year tenure. Entrepreneurs in residence would not receive compensation but would receive expense reimbursements, and must file the same financial disclosure statement with the Ethics Commission that state and local government officers must file disclosing sources of income, business and real estate holdings, investments, creditors and debtors, and gifts.³

Before the end of the entrepreneur in residence one-year tenure, the entrepreneur in residence must prepare a report about the agency and make recommendations to the agency that further the mission of the program. The report must be submitted to the agency and the Small Business Advisory Council. The recommendations must address the following:

--Elimination of inefficient or duplicative programs and functions that affect small businesses;

--Methods to improve efficiency of programs and functions that affect small businesses;

--New programs or functions that could be established;

--Any other matter that furthers the program's mission.

Evaluation of program and recommendations

The Small Business Council may convene an informal working group of entrepreneurs in residence during or after the pilot program to discuss entrepreneur's recommendations and best practices, experiences, and opportunities for and obstacles to operating small businesses. After the pilot program ends, the Council must prepare a report on the program recommending whether it should be abandoned, made permanent, or repeated, and any modifications. The Council's report must include the reports of the entrepreneurs in residence. If the program is repeated or made permanent, an individual who previously was assigned as an entrepreneur in residence may not be reassigned as an entrepreneur in residence.

The Council must provide a copy of its report to the Common Sense Initiative Office, and the Office must transmit a copy to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, the President and Minority Leader of the Senate, and the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

³ R.C. 102.02.

HISTORY

ACTION

DATE

Introduced

06-19-13

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