



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Joe McDaniels

H.B. 259

130th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Stinziano and Dovilla, Antonio, Barborak, Cera, Kunze, Mallory, Patterson, Phillips

BILL SUMMARY

- Creates the Economic Gardening Technical Assistance Pilot Program in the Development Services Agency 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.

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 Development Services Agency 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 Services 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.¹

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 Development Services Agency website.²

Rulemaking

The bill permits the Director of Development Services 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.³

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.⁴

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.

¹ Section 1, divisions (A) through (C).

² Section 1, division (D).

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

⁴ 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.⁵

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	09-04-13

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⁵ Section 4.

