



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Brian D. Malachowsky

H.B. 275

130th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Patmon and Barnes

BILL SUMMARY

- Creates the Commission on Violence Against Women and Children.
- Requires the Commission to prepare an annual report.
- Requires the Department of Job and Family Services to provide the Commission staff and other support services, and to designate an employee to seek funding for the Commission and advocate on the federal level for the prevention of violence against women and children.
- Creates the Prevention of Violence Against Women and Children Fund in the state treasury.
- Designates August as "Prevention of Violence Against Women and Children Month" in Ohio.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Commission on Violence Against Women and Children

Creation and duties

The bill creates the Commission on Violence Against Women and Children.¹ The Commission is to study various forms of violence against women and children, including emotional, physical, and socio-economic violence, and publish an annual report recommending solutions for the prevention of violence against women and children. As part of its duties the Commission must do all of the following:

¹ R.C. 5101.92.

- (1) Determine the factors that lead to violence against women and children;
- (2) Summarize the initial impact and aftermath of violence against women and children;
- (3) Summarize the long-term implications of violence against children;
- (4) Gather and submit data on missing women and children and violence against women and children;
- (5) State the best methods for timely reporting of and finding missing women and children and for preventing violence against women and children;
- (6) Identify and suggest changes to Ohio law and state and local policy to reduce the number of missing women and children and stop violence against women and children.²

The Commission's annual report must be submitted to the Governor, President and Minority Leader of the Senate, Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The annual reports are due by August 1 of each year; the first report is due in 2014.³

The bill also requires the Commission to promote awareness of methods by which violence against women and children may be prevented.⁴

Membership

The Commission is to consist of the following members:

- (1) One member of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate;
- (2) One member of the Senate appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate;
- (3) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- (4) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives;

² R.C. 5101.91.

³ R.C. 5101.91(B).

⁴ R.C. 5101.91(A).



(5) The Governor, or the Governor's designee;

(6) One representative of the judicial branch appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court;

(7) The Directors of Health and Job and Family Services and the Superintendent of the State Highway Patrol, or their designees;

(8) Two representatives of local law enforcement agencies appointed by the Governor who have experience in issues related to missing women or children or violence against women or children.⁵

The appointing authorities are required to make initial appointments to the Commission within 20 days after the bill's effective date.

Terms

The member appointed by the Chief Justice and the law enforcement members serve two-year terms, but must continue to serve until the sooner of the date the member's successor is appointed or 60 days after the member's term expires.

Compensation

The bill provides that the members of the Commission are to serve without compensation. Members are to be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses.

Officers

The Commission is required to select a chairperson. The chairperson must select a secretary. Both of these positions are to be filled by members of the Commission.

Conduct of business

The chairperson is charged with calling meetings of the Commission, the first of which must be held not later than 60 days after the bill's effective date. The presence of a majority of the Commission's members constitutes a quorum. The concurrence of at least a majority of the Commission's members is required for any action. The Commission's meetings must be open to the public, and the documents and records in its possession are public records unless otherwise specified in the Public Records Law (R.C. 149.43).

⁵ R.C. 5101.92.



Staff and support services

The bill requires the Department of Job and Family Services to provide staff and other support services for the Commission. The Director of Job and Family Services also is required to designate an employee to apply for grants and other sources of funds for the Commission and advocate on the federal level for the prevention of violence against women and children.

Prevention of Violence Against Women and Children Fund

The bill creates the Prevention of Violence Against Women and Children Fund in the state treasury and authorizes the Commission to accept gifts, grants, donations, contributions, benefits, and other funds from any public agency or private source to carry out any or all of the Commission's duties. These resources must be deposited into the Fund and used solely to support the Commission's operations.

Prevention of Violence Against Women and Children Month

The bill designates August as "Prevention of Violence Against Women and Children Month" in Ohio.⁶

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	09-30-13

H0275-I-130.docx/ks

⁶ R.C. 5.2288.

