



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Amber Hardesty

S.B. 249

130th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sens. Kearney, Turner, LaRose

BILL SUMMARY

- Establishes the position of Senate chaplain.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Senate chaplain

The bill creates the position of Chaplain of the Senate. The Senate President, with the consent of the Senate, must appoint the chaplain. The appointment must be made within 30 days after the first day of the first regular session of a General Assembly. The chaplain serves at the pleasure of the Senate for the General Assembly term during which the chaplain is appointed. A chaplain may serve multiple terms, but is not entitled to serve successive terms.

A vacancy in the chaplain position must be filled in the manner provided for an original appointment. A chaplain appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration date of the predecessor's term must serve for the remainder of the predecessor's term.

The chaplain may be from any religious community, body, or organization. The chaplain must open each Senate session with prayer, and must provide counseling and spiritual care and counseling for Senate members, Senate members' staff, and Senate members' family. When performing these duties, the chaplain must be nonpartisan, nonpolitical, and nondenominational.

The chaplain can allow a guest chaplain to give an opening prayer before session. A guest chaplain may be from any religious community, body, or organization, and must be nonpartisan, nonpolitical, and nondenominational while giving an opening prayer before session.

The chaplain is not entitled to be compensated for performing the chaplain's duties, and is not entitled to be reimbursed for expenses incurred in performing the chaplain's duties.¹

Within 30 days after the bill's effective date, the Senate President, with the consent of the Senate, must appoint an initial chaplain, whose term must coincide with the remaining term of the 130th General Assembly.²

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	12-04-13

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¹ R.C. 101.291.

² Section 2.

