
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

County hospital trustees

- Requires county hospital trustees to be representative of the areas served by the hospital.
- Removes a criterion that prohibits more than one half of the members of a board of county hospital trustees from being independents or from being members of any one political party.
- Authorizes the board of county commissioners to provide a stipend for service on the board of county hospital trustees.
- Requires a board of county hospital trustees to hold meetings at least quarterly, rather than once a month.
- Authorizes boards of county hospital trustees to adopt annual leasing policies provided through a joint purchasing arrangement sponsored by a nonprofit organization, for certain services, supplies, and equipment.
- Exempts from competitive bidding, with a unanimous vote of the board of county hospital trustees, emergency purchases that are under \$100,000 or when there is actual physical damage to structures or equipment.
- Requires a board of county hospital trustees, whenever a contract of purchase, lease, or construction is exempt from competitive bidding, to solicit at least three informal estimates when the estimated cost is \$50,000 or more, but less than \$100,000.
- Permits the board of county hospital trustees to delegate its management and control of the county hospital to the hospital administrator through a written delegation.
- Requires the board of county hospital trustees to provide for management and control of the county hospital, in addition to providing for government of, and expeditious admissions to, the hospital.

Other provisions

- Permits a superintendent serving multiple county DD boards to appoint a designee to participate on a county's family and children first council.
- Requires the public children services agency (PCSA) of Butler County to establish and maintain a regional training center for training PCSA caseworkers and



supervisors and related functions; eliminates the Hamilton County PCSA's duty to establish and maintain such a center; and specifies that the center established by the Butler County PCSA replaces the center previously established under existing law by the Hamilton County PCSA.

County hospital trustees

(R.C. 339.02, 339.05, 339.06, and 339.07)

The bill expressly requires county hospital trustees to be representative of the areas served by the hospital.

The bill also removes criteria that prohibit more than one half of the members of a board of county hospital trustees from being independents or from being members of any one political party.

The bill authorizes, but does not require, the board of county commissioners to provide a stipend for service on the board of county hospital trustees. Under current law, county hospital trustees must serve without compensation. Continuing law, not amended by the bill, allows the trustees to be paid for the necessary and reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

The bill requires a board of county hospital trustees to hold meetings at least quarterly. Current law requires meetings to be held at least once a month.

A board of county hospital trustees is authorized annually to adopt bidding procedures and purchasing policies for services provided through a joint purchasing arrangement sponsored by a nonprofit organization, and for supplies and equipment that are routinely used in operation of the hospital and that cost above the amount at which purchases must be competitively bid. The bill expands and restructures this provision by authorizing the annual adoption of purchasing or leasing policies provided through the joint purchasing arrangement sponsored by a nonprofit organization, for services, supplies, and equipment, that are routinely used in the operation of the hospital and that cost above the amount at which purchases must be competitively bid. If the board of county hospital trustees adopts these procedures and policies, and if the board of county commissioners approves them, the board of county hospital trustees may follow those procedures and policies rather than the competitive bidding procedures that otherwise would apply.

Under the bill, a board of county hospital trustees is exempt from competitive bidding if the board, by a unanimous vote, determines that a real and present



emergency exists and the estimated cost is less than \$100,000 or there is actual physical damage to structures or equipment. The board must enter the determination of emergency and the reasons for it in the minutes of its proceedings. (For purposes of this provision, a vote is unanimous if all members of the board of county hospital trustees are present, or when not all members are present, so long as the number of members present constitutes a quorum (one half plus one).)

Whenever a contract of purchase, lease, or construction is exempted from competitive bidding because the estimated cost is less than \$100,000, but is \$50,000 or more, the board must solicit informal estimates before the contract is awarded from not fewer than three persons who could perform the contract. The board must maintain a record of the informal estimates, including the name of each person from whom an informal estimate was solicited, for the longer of at least one year after the contract is awarded or an amount of time required by the federal government.

The bill authorizes the board of county hospital trustees to delegate its management and control of the county hospital to the hospital administrator through a written delegation. The bill also specifies that the board must establish rules for the hospital's management and control, in addition to rules for the hospital's government and for the expedient admission of persons.

County family and children first council membership

(R.C. 121.37 and 5126.0219 (not in the bill))

County family and children first councils help families seeking government services to streamline and coordinate existing government services. Each county council is comprised of certain mandatory members, as well as other representatives invited by the board of county commissioners. One of the mandatory members is the superintendent of the county DD board.

A superintendent of a county DD board may serve as the superintendent of more than one county DD board pursuant to an agreement entered into between county DD boards. When a superintendent serves as the superintendent for multiple counties, the bill permits the superintendent to appoint a designee to participate on the county council.

Regional Training Center – Butler County PCSA

(R.C. 5103.42)

Under existing law, prior to the beginning of the fiscal biennium that first followed October 5, 2000, the public children services agencies (PCSA) of Athens,



Cuyahoga, Franklin, Greene, Guernsey, Hamilton, Lucas, and Summit counties were each required to establish and maintain a regional training center. At any time after the beginning of the specified biennium, the Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), on the recommendation of the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program Steering Committee, may direct a PCSA to establish and maintain a training center to replace a center established by a PCSA under the requirement described above. There may be no more and no less than eight centers in existence at any time. ODJFS may make a grant to a PCSA that establishes and maintains one of the regional training centers for the purpose of wholly or partially subsidizing the operation of the center. ODJFS must specify in the grant all of the center's duties, including the duties described in the second succeeding paragraph.

The bill requires the Butler County PCSA, prior to the beginning of the fiscal biennium that first follows the effective date of the bill's provisions enacting the requirement, to establish and maintain a regional training center for training caseworkers and supervisors of PCSAs and related functions. It eliminates the duty of the Hamilton County PCSA to establish and maintain such a center and specifies that the center established by the Butler County PCSA replaces the center previously established under existing law by the Hamilton County PCSA.

R.C. 5103.422, not in the bill, specifies that a regional training center's responsibilities include: (1) securing facilities suitable for training provided under the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program established by ODJFS under R.C. 5103.30, (2) providing administrative services and paying administrative costs related to the training, (3) maintaining a database of the data contained in the individual training needs assessments for each PCSA caseworker and PCSA caseworker supervisor employed by a PCSA located in the center's training region, (4) analyzing training needs of PCSA caseworkers and PCSA caseworker supervisors employed by a PCSA located in the center's training region, and (5) coordinating training at the center with the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program Coordinator. R.C. 5103.41, not in the bill, required ODJFS, prior to the beginning of the fiscal biennium that first followed October 5, 2000, and in consultation with the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program Steering Committee, to designate eight training regions in the state. ODJFS and the Committee, at times they select, must review the training regions' composition. ODJFS may change the training regions' composition as it considers necessary. Each training region may contain only one regional training center.

