
OHIO BOARD OF REGENTS

Cap on undergraduate tuition increases

- For fiscal years 2014 and 2015, limits the increases of in-state undergraduate instructional and general fees for:
 - (1) State universities and the Northeast Ohio Medical University to 2% or \$188, whichever is higher, over the previous year;
 - (2) Regional campuses to 2% or \$114, whichever is higher, over the previous year; and
 - (3) Community colleges, state community colleges, and technical colleges to \$100 over the previous year.

Undergraduate tuition guarantee program

- Authorizes boards of trustees of state universities to establish an undergraduate tuition guarantee program under which a state university guarantees a cohort of students a set rate for general and instructional fees for four years.
- Allows a one-time increase of not more than 6% of general and instructional fees for the *first cohort* under the program unless a higher percentage is approved by the Chancellor of the Board of Regents.
- Allows a one-time *per cohort* increase of general and instructional fees that is the sum of the five-year rate of inflation plus the amount of the General Assembly-imposed tuition cap rate.
- Allows boards of trustees participating in the tuition guarantee program to request to the Chancellor an increase in the percentage charged to a cohort, if a board determines that the university's general and instructional fees have fallen significantly lower than those of other state universities.
- Requires the Chancellor to publish a report on the undergraduate tuition guarantee programs established under the bill within five years after the bill's effective date.
- Suspends the bill's temporary tuition caps for a university that establishes an undergraduate tuition guarantee program.



Strategic completion plans

- Requires the board of trustees of each state institution of higher education to adopt, by June 30, 2014, an institution-specific strategic completion plan designed to increase the number of degrees and certificates awarded to students and to submit a copy of it to the Chancellor.
- Requires a board of trustees to update its completion plan at least once every two years and submit a copy of the update to the Chancellor.

Certificates of value and technical credit articulation

- Authorizes the Chancellor to designate "certificates of value" for certificate programs at adult career-technical education institutions and state institutions of higher education and requires the Chancellor to develop quality standards for those designations.
- Requires the Chancellor to establish a One-Year Option credit articulation system for technical center graduates in the state to receive college credit for a technical degree.

Northeast Ohio Medical University Partnership

- Allows the Northeast Ohio Medical University to enter into a partnership with Cleveland State University to establish an academic campus at Cleveland State University to enable students enrolled under the partnership to receive at least 50% of their training in the Cleveland area.

Scholarship funds

- Creates the Ohio College Opportunity Grant Program Reserve Fund in the state treasury.
- Creates the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Reserve Fund in the state treasury.
- Creates the War Orphans Scholarship Reserve Fund in the state treasury.
- Creates the National Guard Scholarship Donation Fund within the state treasury.
- Renames the Ohio War Orphans Scholarship Fund within the state treasury to the Ohio War Orphans Scholarship Donation Fund.

Alternative retirement plan investment entities

- Includes as entities that may offer investment options under an alternative retirement plan (ARP) maintained by a public institution of higher education entities



that have provided investment options for at least ten years under ARPs at Ohio public institutions of higher education.

Other provisions

- Authorizes the Chancellor to contract with an entity to perform any or all of the Chancellor's duties related to the Distance Learning Clearinghouse.
- Changes some of the criteria by which the Chancellor uses in determining Ohio Co-Op/Internship Program awards to align with policies of the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation.
- Authorizes a state university to admit resident individuals for enrollment who have graduated from high school after 2014 without completing the Ohio Core Curriculum, if they successfully complete topics or courses lacked from the Ohio Core Curriculum either at any post-secondary institution or at a summer program offered by the state university.
- Creates the Youth STEM Commercialization and Entrepreneurship Program to develop new entrepreneurs; to create jobs through the application of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; and to innovate new products and services.
- Exempts from liability for breach of confidentiality a nonprofit private university or college for submitting student information to the Board of Regents or any other state agency under certain specified circumstances.
- Eliminates the requirement that the Chancellor submit an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly on (1) the status of implementation of faculty improvement programs, (2) the number and types of biobased products purchased by state institutions of higher education, as well as the amount of money spent on these products, and (3) the academic and economic impact of the Ohio Innovation Partnership.
- Eliminates a provision of law that required the Chancellor by August 15, 2011, to develop a plan for designating public institutions of higher education as charter universities.
- Requires the Chancellor to establish an efficiency advisory committee to generate optimal efficiency plans for campuses.
- Permits the President of Ohio University to create an advisory committee to review the comprehensive land use plans and any update of those plans prepared by the



University, and to comment on and periodically review the progress on the implementation of those plans, for the property known as "The Ridges" (formerly the Athens Mental Health Center).

- Changes references to the Ohio Cooperative Extension to OSU Extension throughout the Revised Code, and defines "OSU Extension."

Cap on undergraduate tuition increases

(Section 363.220)

For fiscal years 2014 and 2015 (the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 academic years), the bill requires the board of trustees of each state institution of higher education to limit its increases of in-state undergraduate instructional and general fees as follows:

(1) For each state university and the Northeast Ohio Medical University, not more than 2% or \$188, whichever is higher, over what the institution charged the previous year;

(2) For each university regional campus, not more than 2% or \$114, whichever is higher, over what the institution charged the previous year; and

(3) For each community college, state community college, and technical college, not more than \$100 over what the institution charged the previous year.

As in previous biennia when the General Assembly capped tuition increases, the bill's limits do not apply to increases required to comply with institutional covenants related to the institution's obligations or to meet unfunded legal mandates or legally binding obligations incurred or commitments made prior to the bill's effective date, such as bond obligations. Further, the Chancellor of the Board of Regents may modify the limitations, with Controlling Board approval, to respond to exceptional circumstances as the Chancellor identifies.

Undergraduate tuition guarantee program

(R.C. 3345.48 and Section 363.220)

The bill authorizes the board of trustees of a state university²⁰⁵ to establish an undergraduate tuition guarantee program, which affords eligible students in the same

²⁰⁵ State university includes University of Akron, Bowling Green State University, Central State University, University of Cincinnati, Cleveland State University, Kent State University, Miami University,



cohort a guarantee to pay a fixed rate for general and instructional fees for four years, in exchange for the possibility of a one-time increase in those fees. The bill allows a board of trustees to include room and board and any additional fees in the program. A "cohort" is a group of students who will complete their bachelor's degree at the same time, and may include transfer students and other selected undergraduate student academic programs as determined by the board of trustees of the state university. In order to participate in the program, a student must be a resident of the state who is enrolled full-time in a bachelor's degree program at a state university. The bill also allows a board of trustees to establish an undergraduate tuition guarantee program for nonresident students.

If a university board of trustees decides to establish an undergraduate tuition guarantee program, the board must adopt rules for the program. Those rules must include at least (1) the number of credit hours required to earn an undergraduate degree in each major, (2) a "benchmark" by which the board sets an increase in general and instructional fees (if applicable),²⁰⁶ (3) additional eligibility requirements for students to participate in the program, (4) student rights and privileges under the program, and (5) a requirement that the rules the board adopts be published or posted in the university handbook, course catalog, and web site.

A board of trustees must also adopt a rule that guarantees that the general and instructional fees for each student in a cohort remain constant for four years so long as the student complies with the requirements of the program, except that the board may increase the guaranteed amount by up to 6% above what has been charged in the previous academic year one time for the first cohort of the tuition guarantee program. If the board of trustees determines that economic conditions or other circumstances require that the increase be higher than six per cent, the board must submit a request to increase that amount to the Chancellor. The Chancellor, based on the information submitted by the board, must approve or disapprove the request. Thereafter, the board may increase the guaranteed amount by the sum of the 60-month (five-year) rate of inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index plus the amount of the General Assembly-imposed limit on the increase of in-state, undergraduate general and instructional fees (tuition increase cap) once per each cohort. (Under the bill, that rate is the greater of \$108 or 2%, for the next two fiscal years.)²⁰⁷ If the General Assembly does

Ohio University, Ohio State University, Shawnee State University, University of Toledo, Wright State University, and Youngstown State University. (R.C. 3345.011, not in the bill.)

²⁰⁶ Benchmarks are subject to approval by the Chancellor.

²⁰⁷ Section 363.220.



not enact a tuition increase cap, then no limit under the guarantee will apply for a cohort that first enrolls in such an academic year.

The bill also allows the boards of trustees of a state university that participates in the tuition guarantee program to submit a request to the Chancellor for an increase of the amount it may charge a cohort higher than the amount specified under the bill, if the board determines that the general and instructional fees charged under the tuition guarantee have fallen significantly lower than those of other state universities. The request must specify the percentage by which the board would like to increase the amount of fees charged. The Chancellor must approve or disapprove any such request.

Finally, a board's rules must include consequences to the university for students unable to complete a degree program within four years. Rules must specify that if a student could not complete the degree program in four years due to a lack of available classes or space in classes provided by the university, the university will provide the necessary course or courses for completion to the student free of charge. If a student could not complete the degree program in four years because of military service or other circumstances beyond the student's control, the university must provide the necessary course or courses to the student at the student's initial cohort rate. The board of trustees determines what constitutes a circumstance beyond a student's control. If a student did not complete the program in four years for any other reason, as determined by the board of trustees, the university must provide the necessary course or courses at a rate determined using guidelines adopted by the board under rule for adjusting a student's annual charges.

A board of trustees must submit the rules adopted to implement the program to the Chancellor for approval before implementing a tuition guarantee program. The bill specifies that the Chancellor not "unreasonably withhold" approval of a program that conforms in principle with the parameters and guidelines of the requirements enacted by the bill.

Within five years of the bill's effective date, the Chancellor must publish on the Board of Regents web site a report that lists the state universities that have adopted an undergraduate tuition guarantee program with the details of each program. The report must also include comparative data, including general and instructional fees, room and board, graduation rates, and retention rates from all state universities.

The bill also specifically exempts state universities that establish an undergraduate tuition guarantee program from the tuition caps set by the bill for the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 academic years, as described above.



Strategic completion plans for institutions of higher education

(New R.C. 3345.81)

The bill requires the board of trustees of each state institution of higher education to adopt, by June 30, 2014, an institution-specific strategic completion plan designed to increase the number of degrees and certificates awarded to students. Each completion plan must be consistent with the mission and priorities of the specific institution and must include measureable completion goals. Additionally, the plan must align with Ohio's workforce development priorities.

The bill requires the board of trustees to submit a copy of its plan to the Chancellor. The board also must update its plan at least once every two years and, submit a copy of the update to the Chancellor.

Certificates of value

(R.C. 3333.342)

The bill authorizes the Chancellor to issue the designation as a "certificate of value" to a certificate program at any adult career-technical education institution or state institution of higher education. A certificate program is a series of one or more non-degree courses that focus on a particular area specifically designed for employment in that area. Under the bill, a certificate of value expires six years after its designation date and may be revoked prior to its expiration date if the Chancellor determines that the certificate program no longer complies with the standards used for issuing a designation of "certificate of value" (see below). The revocation of a certificate of value becomes effective 180 days after the declaration of revocation.

Any institution that desires to be eligible to receive a designation of "certificate of value" must comply with all records and data requests that the Chancellor requires.

Certificate of value standards

The bill requires the Chancellor to develop quality standards for designating certificates of value to certificate programs at adult career-technical education institutions and state institutions of higher education. Those standards must include the following considerations: (1) the certificate program's quality, (2) the ability to transfer agreed-upon technical courses completed through an adult career-technical education institution to a state institution of higher education "without unnecessary duplication or institutional barriers," (3) the extent to which the certificate program encourages a student to obtain an associate's or bachelor's degree, (4) the extent to which the certificate program increases a student's likelihood to complete other certificate



programs or an associate's or bachelor's degree, (5) the certificate program's ability to meet the expectations of the workplace and higher education, (6) the extent to which the certificate program is aligned with the strengths of the regional economy, (7) the extent to which the certificate program increases the amount of individuals who remain in or enter Ohio's workforce, and (8) the extent of a certificate program's relationship with private companies in Ohio to fill potential job growth.

One-Year Option credit articulation system

(Section 363.120.)

The bill requires the Chancellor to establish a One-Year Option credit articulation system in which graduates of Ohio technical centers who complete a 900-hour program of study and obtain an industry-recognized credential approved by the Chancellor receive 30 college technical credit hours toward a technical degree upon enrollment in an institution of higher education. The system must be established by June 30, 2014.

The Chancellor must also report to the General Assembly, by that date, recommendations for a process to award proportional credit toward a technical degree for students who complete a program of study between 600 and 899 hours and obtain an industry-recognized credential approved by the Chancellor.

Northeast Ohio Medical University Partnership

(R.C. 3350.15)

The bill allows the Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED) to enter into a partnership with Cleveland State University to establish the Northeast Ohio Medical University Academic Campus at Cleveland State University. The campus at Cleveland State University enables students enrolled under the partnership to be based in Cleveland and to take 50% or more of the medical curriculum at Cleveland State University, local hospitals, and community- and neighborhood-based primary care clinics.

The bill also states that Cleveland State University may not receive state capital appropriations to pay for facilities for the NEOMED academic campus.²⁰⁸

²⁰⁸ A similar temporary provision, applicable only to the 2011-2013 biennium, was enacted in H.B. 153 of the 129th General Assembly as temporary law. (See Section 371.20.50(C) of that act.)



Creation of Higher Education Scholarship and Grant Reserve Funds

The bill creates four funds related to higher education scholarship and grant programs. The details of each fund may be found below:

Ohio College Opportunity Grant Program Reserve Fund

(R.C. 3333.124)

The bill creates the Ohio College Opportunity Grant Program Reserve Fund in the state treasury. Under the bill, the Chancellor is required to certify to the Director of Budget and Management by July 1 of each fiscal year the unencumbered balance of the GRF appropriations made in the immediately preceding fiscal year for purposes of the Ohio College Opportunity Grant Program. Upon receipt of the certification, the bill permits the Director to transfer an amount not exceeding the certified amount from the GRF to the Ohio College Opportunity Grant Program Reserve Fund. Moneys in the Fund must be used to pay grant obligations in excess of the GRF appropriations made for that purpose. The bill also permits the Director to transfer any unencumbered balance from the Fund to GRF.

Choose Ohio First Scholarship Reserve Fund

(R.C. 3333.613)

The bill creates the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Reserve Fund in the state treasury. Under the bill, the Chancellor is required to certify to the Director by July 1 of each fiscal year the unencumbered balance of the GRF appropriations made in the immediately preceding fiscal year for purposes of the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program. Upon receipt of the certification, the bill permits the Director to transfer an amount not exceeding the certified amount from the GRF to the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Reserve Fund. Moneys in the Fund must be used to pay scholarship obligations in excess of the GRF appropriations made for that purpose. The bill also permits the Director to transfer any unencumbered balance from the Fund to GRF.

War Orphans Scholarship Reserve Fund

(R.C. 5910.08)

The bill creates the War Orphans Scholarship Reserve Fund in the state treasury. Under the bill, the Chancellor is required to certify to the Director by July 1 of each fiscal year the unencumbered balance of the GRF appropriations made in the immediately preceding fiscal year for purposes of the War Orphans Scholarship Program. Upon receipt of the certification, the bill permits the Director to transfer an amount not exceeding the certified amount from the GRF to the War Orphans



Scholarship Reserve Fund. Moneys in the Fund must be used to pay scholarship obligations in excess of the GRF appropriations made for that purpose. The bill also permits the Director to transfer any unencumbered balance from the Fund to GRF.

National Guard Scholarship Donation Fund

(R.C. 5919.34 and 5919.342)

The bill creates the National Guard Scholarship Donation Fund within the state treasury for the purpose of operating the existing Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program. The bill requires any gifts, bequests, grants, and contributions from public or private sources be deposited into the National Guard Scholarship Donation Fund instead of into the existing National Guard Scholarship Reserve Fund. Investment earnings of the fund are to be deposited into the fund. The bill also requires amounts in the new fund to be counted when calculating whether amounts appropriated for the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program and amounts in the National Guard Scholarship Reserve Fund are adequate to provide scholarships under the Program.

Ohio War Orphans Scholarship Donation Fund

(R.C. 5910.02 and 5910.07)

The bill renames the existing Ohio War Orphans Scholarship Fund within the state treasury to the Ohio War Orphans Scholarship Donation Fund.

Alternative retirement plan investment entities

(R.C. 3305.03)

Designation

The bill includes as entities that may offer investment options under an alternative retirement plan (ARP) maintained by a public institution of higher education entities that have provided investment options for at least ten years under ARPs at Ohio public institutions of higher education. ARPs are available to full-time employees of public institutions of higher education who elect to participate in an ARP rather than the public retirement system that would otherwise cover the employment.

Continuing law requires the Board of Regents (presumably meaning the Chancellor) to designate entities (referred to as "vendors") to offer ARP investment options. To be eligible for designation as a vendor, an entity must meet certain requirements. One of the requirements is that the entity must offer the same or similar investment options as ARPs, optional retirement plans, or similar types of plans that



meet all of the following requirements: (a) are offered as defined contribution plans²⁰⁹ that are qualified plans under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, (b) are maintained by institutions of higher education in at least ten other states, and (c) are established as primary retirement plans that are alternatives to or a component of the applicable public retirement system.

As an alternative to meeting the requirement described above, the bill permits an entity to be designated to offer ARP investment options if it has provided investment options for at least ten years under ARPs at public institutions of higher education in Ohio.

Criteria for consideration

When designating an entity, continuing law requires the Board to identify, consider, and evaluate a number of criteria concerning the experience of the entity in other states. The bill modifies one of the criteria by requiring the Board to identify, consider, and evaluate the experience of an entity in providing *in this state* or other states investment options under ARPs, optional retirement plans, or similar types of plans.

Distance Learning Clearinghouse

(R.C. 3333.82)

The bill authorizes the Chancellor to contract with an entity to perform any or all of the Chancellor's duties related to the Distance Learning Clearinghouse, including administering and maintaining the clearinghouse, reviewing applications for courses, approving or disproving course applications, negotiating changes in course proposals, and cataloging each approved course. The bill's language is similar to a provision of former law that was removed in 2011.

Background

Under the clearinghouse program, school districts, community schools, STEM schools, public and private colleges and universities, and other nonprofit and for-profit course providers may offer on-line or other distance learning courses for sharing with other school districts, community schools, STEM schools, public and private colleges and universities, and individuals. In operating the clearinghouse, the Chancellor or the

²⁰⁹ Defined contribution plans are those that provide for an individual account and benefits based solely on the amount contributed to the account and any earnings or losses on that amount. This differs from a defined benefit plan, which provides a set benefit (such as a monthly pension) on retirement based typically on a formula including years of service, age, and salary.

entity with which the Chancellor contracts must use a "common statewide platform" to support the delivery of courses, but the provider is solely responsible for the course content. The Chancellor has maintained the clearinghouse as the "OhioLearns! Gateway," including an online searchable database of both primary-secondary and higher education courses offered through the program (see www.ohiolearns.org).

Ohio/Co-Op Internship Program

(R.C. 3333.73)

The bill changes some of the criteria for the Chancellor to consider in determining which submitted proposals will receive Ohio Co-Op/Internship Awards to align with policies of the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation. First, under the bill, the Chancellor must consider the extent to which a proposal supports the workforce policies of the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation to meet the workforce needs of the state and to provide a student participating in the program with the skills needed for workplace success.

Under current law the Chancellor must consider the extent to which a proposal is aligned with the Chancellor's report issued in 2007 on higher education and the state economy.²¹⁰ The bill removes this requirement.

Finally, the bill requires the Chancellor to consider the extent to which a proposal is responsive to the needs of employers and aligns with the skills identified by employers as necessary to fill high-demand job openings, particularly job openings in targeted industry sectors identified by the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation.

Background

The Ohio Co-Op Internship Program was created "to promote and encourage cooperative education programs and internship programs at Ohio institutions of higher education...in order to support the growth of Ohio's businesses by providing businesses with Ohio's most talented students and providing Ohio graduates with job opportunities with Ohio's growing companies."²¹¹ The program must recruit both Ohio residents who have remained in the state and those who have left Ohio to attend out-of-state institutions. It must either, or both, (1) "support the creation and maintenance of high quality academic programs that utilize an intensive cooperative education or internship experience for students" or (2) "assign a number of scholarships to

²¹⁰ Section 4 of Sub. H.B. 2 of the 127th General Assembly.

²¹¹ R.C. 3333.72 (first paragraph), not in the bill.



institutions to recruit Ohio residents as students in a high quality academic program." If scholarships are included in an award to an institution of higher education, they are to be awarded as grants to the institutions and then reflected on the students' tuition bills.²¹²

State university enrollment for non-Ohio Core high school graduates

(R.C. 3313.603(C) and 3345.06)

The bill allows a state university to admit resident students who have graduated from high school after 2014 without completing the Ohio Core Curriculum if they successfully complete topics or courses that a student lacked from the Ohio Core Curriculum. The topics or courses must be completed at a post-secondary institution or at a summer program offered by the state university that accepts the student. Admission may also be contingent upon completion of such topics or courses.

Background

Beginning with the 2014-2015 academic year, current law generally prohibits a state university, except Central State University, Shawnee State University, and Youngstown State University, from admitting a resident high school graduate who did not complete the Ohio Core Curriculum. The Ohio Core Curriculum requires students to complete 20 "units" of study in specified subject areas, including Algebra II, to qualify for a high school diploma. The law does provide specific exceptions to this prohibition, including exceptions for (1) students who earn at least 10 semester hours, or the equivalent, at a community college, state community college, university branch, technical college, or another post-secondary institution except a state university, in courses that are college-credit-bearing and may be applied toward the requirements for a degree, (2) students who met the high school graduation requirements by successfully completing an individualized education program (for students with disabilities), (3) home-instructed students or students who graduate from nonchartered nonpublic schools and who demonstrate mastery of the academic content and skills in reading, writing, and mathematics, and (4) students participating in the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program.

The bill prescribes the additional exception described above.

²¹² R.C. 3333.72 (second paragraph).



Youth STEM Commercialization and Entrepreneurship Program

(Section 363.333)

The bill creates the Youth STEM Commercialization and Entrepreneurship Program with the purpose of (1) developing new entrepreneurs, (2) creating jobs through the practical application of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM including medicine and health fields), and (3) innovating new products and services. The Chancellor is required to administer the program with funds appropriated by the General Assembly (\$2 million in FY 2014 and \$3 million in FY 2015) and must collaborate with institutions of higher education and other STEM-related programs and associations to implement programmatic activities. The activities must include (1) conducting regional STEM forums for students and educators, (2) developing online content and courses on STEM commercialization and entrepreneurship, (3) creating a statewide STEM commercialization and entrepreneurship mentoring network, and (4) conducting a statewide STEM Commercialization and Entrepreneurship Plan competition for high school students.

Private university exempt from liability for certain breach of confidentiality

(R.C. 3333.049)

The bill exempts from liability for breach of confidentiality a private university or college that submits student information to the Board of Regents or any other state agency, provided that the breach occurs as a result of (1) an action by the recipient, or (2) an action by a third party after the information has left the possession of the private university or college but has not been received by the Board or the other state agency.

Annual reports by the Chancellor

(R.C. 3333.041)

Currently, the Chancellor is required to submit various annual reports to the Governor and the General Assembly. The bill removes three of the Chancellor's reporting requirements, including reports on the following:

- (1) The status of implementation of faculty improvement programs;
- (2) The number and types of biobased products purchased by state institutions of higher education, as well as the amount of money spent on these products; and
- (3) The academic and economic impact of the Ohio Innovation Partnership.



However, while the bill no longer requires the Chancellor to report on the Ohio Innovation Partnership (see above), the bill does maintain current law requiring the Chancellor to report on the assignment and strategy of the Choose Ohio First Scholarships, which are part of the larger Ohio Innovation Partnership. The bill also maintains all other reporting requirements of the Chancellor, including reports on (1) the status of graduates of Ohio school districts at state institutions of higher education, (2) aggregate academic growth data for students assigned to graduates of teacher preparation programs who teach certain subjects and grade levels, (3) specified information regarding the Ohio Tuition Trust Authority, (4) a description of dual enrollment programs offered by secondary schools, and (5) the academic and economic impact of the Ohio Co-op/Internship Program.

Efficiency advisory committee

(Section 363.550)

The bill requires the Chancellor to establish an efficiency advisory committee to generate optimal efficiency plans for college and university campuses, identify shared services opportunities, and share best practices. The committee must also explore methods for reducing the costs for students for textbooks and other education resource materials. The committee must meet at the call of the Chancellor or the Chancellor's designee, which must be at least quarterly. Each state institution of higher education must designate an employee to serve as its efficiency officer responsible for the evaluation and improvement of operational efficiencies on campus. Each efficiency officer, then, must serve on the efficiency advisory committee.

By December 31 of each year, the committee must provide a report to the Office of Budget and Management, the Governor, and the General Assembly compiling the operational efficiency plans for all institutions of higher education and benchmarking efficiency gains realized over the preceding year and progress in implementing the prior year's efficiency plan. The report must also be made available to the public on the Board of Regents' web site.

Ohio University advisory committee

(R.C. 3337.16)

The bill authorizes the President of Ohio University to create an advisory committee to review the comprehensive land use plans and any updates of those plans prepared by the University, and to comment on and periodically review the progress on

the implementation of those plans, for the property known as "The Ridges" (formerly the Athens Mental Health Center).²¹³

If the committee is created, it must consist of the following members:

(1) The President of Ohio University or the president's designee, who must serve as chairperson of the committee;

(2) The mayor of the City of Athens or the mayor's designee;

(3) One Athens County Commissioner appointed by the President of the University;

(4) One to three individuals appointed by the President of the University who reside in Athens county and have special knowledge and experience in land use planning, preservation, or economic development.

The bill provides that vacancies on the committee must be filled in the same manner as the original appointments.

Repeal of provision for charter university proposal

(R.C. 3345.81 (repealed))

The bill repeals a provision that required the Chancellor, by August 15, 2011, to develop a plan for designating public institutions of higher education as charter universities for consideration by the General Assembly. The Chancellor issued the report required by this provision.

OSU Extension

(R.C. 1.611, 124.57, 307.07, 903.11, 905.06, 1511.02, 1511.022, 1711.07, 3335.35, 3335.36, 3335.37, 3335.38, 3345.05, 3717.08, 4123.32, and 5705.19)

The bill changes references to the Ohio Cooperative Extension to OSU Extension throughout the Revised Code. In addition, the bill defines "OSU Extension" as the Cooperative Extension Service established by the federal Smith-Lever Act and administered in Ohio by The Ohio State University. Current law does not define "Ohio Cooperative Extension."

²¹³ This property was conveyed to the University by the state in 1988. The conveyance was authorized in Sub. H.B. 576 of the 117th General Assembly.

