
OHIO ETHICS COMMISSION

- Changes the deadline for public officials and employees to file financial disclosure statements with the appropriate ethics commission from April 15 to May 15.
- Alters the deadline for an ethics commission to notify a class of public officials or employees that it requires to file statements of the filing requirement.
- Makes confidential financial disclosure statements filed by members of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Director of the Southern Ohio Agricultural and Community Development Foundation.

Financial disclosure statement filing deadline

(R.C. 102.02, 102.022, and 187.03)

The bill changes the deadline from April 15 to May 15 for public officials and employees to file annual financial disclosure statements with the appropriate ethics commission – the Joint Legislative Ethics Commission, the Ohio Ethics Commission, or the Supreme Court Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline, depending on the person's position.⁹⁵ And, under the bill, if an ethics commission adds a class of public officials or employees to the list of individuals who must file statements, the commission must send those officials or employees written notice of the requirement not less than 30 days before the filing deadline, instead of by February 15. If such an official or employee is appointed after the deadline to send the notice, the notice must be sent within 30 days after appointment.

Under continuing law, a candidate for elective office (including a person who is currently a public official or employee) must file that statement no later than 30 days before the first election at which the person appears on the ballot, except that a write-in candidate must file that statement no later than 20 days before the election. A person who is appointed to fill a vacancy in an elective office must file a statement within 15 days after qualifying for office. Other persons who are appointed or employed after the general filing deadline must file a statement within 90 days.

⁹⁵ R.C. 102.01(F), not in the bill. While continuing law refers to the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline, the Supreme Court changed that entity's name to the Board of Professional Conduct, effective January 1, 2015. See Rule V of the *Supreme Court Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio*.



Southern Ohio Agricultural and Community Development Foundation

(R.C. 102.02)

The bill makes confidential financial disclosure statements filed by members of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Director of the Southern Ohio Agricultural and Community Development Foundation (SOACDF). Current law makes those financial disclosure statements public records under an exemption that specifically applies to the SOACDF. Under the bill, financial disclosure statements filed by members of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Director of SOACDF are confidential in the same manner as those statements are confidential for other members of unpaid boards, commissions, and bureaus.

