
OHIO HISTORY CONNECTION

- Allows the Ohio History Connection to work with American Indian tribes to select, manage, and use burial sites for the repatriation of American Indian human remains.
- Removes a provision of current law that allows less than a majority of members of the Ohio Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial to hold hearings or meetings for the purpose of furthering the Commission's work.

American Indian burial sites

(R.C. 149.3010)

The bill allows the Ohio History Connection to use land for repatriation of American Indian human remains. The land must be either owned by the Ohio History Connection, owned by the state and in the Ohio History Connection's custody and control, leased by the Ohio History Connection, or leased from the Ohio History Connection to another entity or organization.

The Ohio History Connection must work with and cooperate with federally recognized Indian tribal governments in the selection, management, and use of the burial sites. And it must implement reasonable standards for the use and maintenance of the burial sites. If the Ohio History Connection disposes of or no longer has custody and control of a burial site, the agency must retain access and authority to maintain the site or must assign its right of access and maintenance to the person acquiring the site.

The Ohio History Connection is not required to register a burial site as a cemetery and is not otherwise subject to the laws that apply to cemetery operators, including, for instance, maintenance standards and a complaints process.

Ohio Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial

(R.C. 149.309)

The bill removes from current law a provision that allows less than a majority of members of the Ohio Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial to hold hearings or meetings for the purpose of furthering the Commission's work. Under current law, the Commission consists of 29 members, a majority of whom constitutes a quorum.

Continuing law states that the purpose of the Commission is "to plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the [250th] anniversary of the founding of the United States and the impact of Ohioans on the nation's past, present, and future." Among the Commission's duties is a requirement to submit an annual report to the Governor and General Assembly detailing the activities of the Commission, including a summary of funds received and spent during the year covered by the report, the outputs and outcomes achieved, and whether those achievements meet the Commission's plan and overall program. The Commission ceases to exist on June 30, 2027.