
GOVERNOR

- Prohibits the Governor from proposing a budget that carries into the new fiscal biennium a GRF cash balance that is greater than the required ending fund balance.
- Authorizes the Governor and former Governors of Ohio to solemnize marriages.
- Establishes the Education and Workforce Data Insights Board within the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation to make the state's education and workforce data more useful, applicable, and beneficial to the state's citizens.
- Establishes that the Board must consist of not more than 15 members, including specified state agency directors, stakeholders appointed by the Governor and, if determined necessary by the Governor, members of the public with extensive experience in relevant topics.
- Requires the Board to meet at least quarterly in a public setting.
- Requires the Board annually to submit a report to the Governor, Speaker of the House, and Senate President.

Governor's budget proposal – cash balance

(R.C. 107.03)

The bill prohibits the Governor from submitting a state budget to the General Assembly that proposes a GRF beginning cash balance that is greater than the ending fund balance required by law. Under current law, at the end of a fiscal year, OBM must determine the surplus revenue from the fiscal year and transfer most of the unobligated, unencumbered amount of that surplus revenue from the GRF first to the Budget Stabilization Fund (BSF) and then to the Expanded Sales Tax Holiday Fund (ESTHF).⁹⁹

In recent budget acts, the law that directs surplus revenue to those funds is suspended, resulting in a pool of surplus revenue retained in the GRF. That pool is then rolled over and spent in the biennium covered by that budget act. The bill therefore requires the Governor to allow surplus revenue to flow from the GRF to the BSF and ESTHF for the fiscal year leading up to the proposed budget and, thus, prevents the Governor from proposing a budget with a large GRF cash balance heading into the next fiscal biennium.

⁹⁹ R.C. 131.44, not in the bill.

Governor solemnizing marriages

(R.C. 3101.08)

The bill authorizes the Governor and former Governors of Ohio to solemnize marriages.¹⁰⁰ Continuing law authorizes the following persons to solemnize marriages:

- An ordained or licensed minister of any religious society or congregation within Ohio who is licensed to solemnize marriages;
- A judge of a county court;
- A judge of a municipal court;
- A probate judge;
- The mayor of a municipal corporation within Ohio;
- The Superintendent of Ohio deaf and blind education services;
- Any religious society in conformity with the rules of its church.

Education and Workforce Data Insights Board

(R.C. 6303.01, 6303.02, 6303.03, 6303.04, and 6303.05)

The bill establishes the Education and Workforce Data Insights Board within the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation to make the state's education and workforce data more useful, applicable, and beneficial to the state's citizens. The scope of the Board's oversight is limited to education and workforce and data, as determined by the Board, but the bill permits the Board, by majority vote, to enter into agreements with agencies to include additional data related to the mission of the Board.

Under the bill, the Board is required to work collaboratively to achieve the following objectives:

1. Create a research framework that reflects the broad, cross-agency policy areas that are priorities for policy leaders and state agencies related to education and workforce. The Board must ensure that the necessary data connections exist to implement the research framework, discuss the progress implementing the research framework at each meeting, and update the framework every two years with stakeholder input;

2. Adopt a data access and use policy for cross-agency data requests, adhering to all state and federal privacy and data security laws;

¹⁰⁰ R.C. 3101.08 states that marriage is allowed only between one man and one woman. However, this statute was struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, 576 U.S. 644 (2015), under the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and does not have any force or effect regarding the restrictions of same-sex marriage.

3. Identify and implement strategies to make data collection and reporting more efficient for local and regional education and workforce entities to reduce duplication of efforts;
4. Take actions to increase the capacity of the state to securely process cross-agency data and research requests with the goal of reducing the time and cost required to fulfill such requests;
5. Support critical education and workforce initiatives adopted by the state that rely on cross-agency data and, when possible, support local and regional education and workforce initiatives;
6. Coordinate the creation of tools, dashboards, reports, and research that use cross-agency education and workforce data;
7. Share and promote the tools, dashboards, reports, and research created by the board using cross-agency education and workforce data;
8. Discuss and direct the implementation of enhancements to education and workforce data systems, technologies, data security, and privacy.

Membership

The bill requires that the Board consist of not more than 15 members, including the following:

1. The Director of the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation;
2. The Director of Children and Youth;
3. The Director of Education and Workforce;
4. The Chancellor of Higher Education;
5. The Director of Job and Family Services;
6. The Director of Development;
7. If determined necessary by the Governor, the director of additional state agencies;
8. A representative of the early childhood education system, primary and secondary education system, higher education system, workforce development system, and business community, with experience using data to conduct research, implement policy, run programs, or otherwise improve education and workforce, each appointed by the Governor;
9. If determined necessary by the Governor, representatives of other stakeholder groups or members of the public that have extensive experience in academic research, data systems and advanced technologies, data ethics, early childhood, primary and secondary, or higher education, or business, economic development, or workforce development.

Under the bill, any member who is appointed by the Governor must serve a two-year renewable term. The bill requires a chairperson to be selected by the members of the board to also serve a two-year renewable term. Each member of the Board has the same voting power under the bill; however, in the event of a tie vote, the chairperson must determine the resolution of the vote.

Board meetings

The bill requires the Board to meet at least quarterly in a public setting, publish notice of each meeting's date, time, and location at least one week in advance, and post meeting materials and recordings, if possible, to the Board's dedicated website for each meeting. The Board is prohibited from publicly reviewing personally identifiable information during meetings or to post it as a part of the meeting details.

While the bill requires each director of a state agency on the Board to attend meetings of the Board, it allows the director to appoint a senior leader from that director's department who has decision-making authority over the agency's data and policy offices as a temporary designee to serve in the director's place on the Board.

Under the bill, the chairperson may create advisory committees to research or discuss specialized topics, solicit stakeholder feedback, complete projects, or generate recommendations for the full Board. The bill requires that committee meetings be held in the same manner as meetings of the full Board, unless the Board votes to make the meetings private for privacy or security reasons. The bill also allows the chairperson to appoint individuals who are not members of the Board to serve on committees who may vote during committee meetings but not during full Board meetings.

Duties of the Board

The chairperson, in collaboration with Board members and staff, is required to manage the Board's operations. Under the bill, the Board is required to do all the following:

1. Oversee the secure linkages of cross-agency data and build system capacity to support education and workforce research that gives insight to the education and workforce pipeline;
2. Provide policy leadership on education and workforce data and publicly share tools, dashboards, and research insights while protecting data privacy and system security;
3. Within 270 days of the bill's effective date, develop a vision, mission, and strategic plan, which the Board must review at least once every five years;
4. Identify and secure the means to implement its activities and objectives;
5. Adhere to all relevant state and federal privacy and data security laws.

The bill allows the Board to create a single, independent entity to implement its activities and objectives. If it creates an independent entity, it must also identify the entity's roles and responsibilities, secure funding and support for the entity, appoint and oversee the leader of the entity, and oversee the operations and regulatory compliance of the entity.

The bill requires the Board to submit a report to the Governor, Speaker of the House, and Senate President that includes all the following:

1. The board's mission, vision, and progress implementing its strategic plan and its plans for the next year;
2. The research framework created by the Board and its progress implementing the framework;

3. A digest of the tools, dashboards, reports, and research produced using cross-agency education and workforce data, including how each is benefiting stakeholders;

4. Metrics on the access and use of education and workforce data;

5. Any recommendations for improving the governance, administrations, or system security of the data systems that support the board's mission and research framework the Board chooses to include.