
LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

- Updates and modernizes LSC duties related to rule codification and maintaining a uniform Ohio Administrative Code.
- Transfers from LSC’s administrative rules to statute the required formats for presenting changes in bills and resolutions.
- Abolishes four LSC funds and transfers the cash balances to the GRF.

Ohio Administrative Code duties

(R.C. 103.05, 111.15, and 119.04)

The bill updates the law governing LSC’s duties to advise and oversee the preparation and codification of administration rules adopted by state agencies. In general, the bill carries over to statute much of the duties expressed in existing LSC administrative rules on these matters, but also makes updates to reflect electronic versus paper rule filing practices. In 2017, a major update to the electronic rule filing system used by agencies led to process changes that were not reflected in the statute. The bill’s changes address the following:

- Require the LSC Director to publish and revise, as needed, a Rule Drafting Manual that takes into account the principles of statutory construction and provides basic rule drafting information for filers to follow;
- Clarify the procedures for how and when LSC reviews rules that have been filed for compliance with the Manual and how rules that are not in compliance are addressed with the filer.

Publishing the OAC

The bill updates LSC’s statutory duties in publishing the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) to reflect electronic publishing. In 2018, the General Assembly designated LSC as the official publisher of the Ohio Revised Code and OAC as part of Ohio’s adoption of the Uniform Electronic Legal Materials Act (UELMA).¹³² The bill conforms LSC’s statutory duties with UELMA, but retains the current law pathway for other publishers to publish an “acceptable” version of the OAC if the LSC Director determines it meets standards prescribed in statute, which are unchanged by the bill. Moreover, the bill deletes standards authorizing the Director to publish some rules in the OAC by number and title only, omitting the text. This practice, formerly known as “rules by reference,” was discontinued in electronic publishing.

¹³² S.B. 139 of the 132nd General Assembly, R.C. 149.21 to 149.27, not in the bill.

Format for bills and resolutions

(R.C. 101.53)

The bill transfers from LSC administrative rules¹³³ to statute the formats for how changes to the law are presented in bills and resolutions. There is no change to the required formatting in the transfer. For example, the current administrative rule and proposed statute in the bill specify:

- New matter inserted into existing codified law must be underlined;
- Old matter in existing law that is to be omitted must be ~~stricken through~~ with a horizontal line.

Abolishment of LSC funds

(Repealed R.C. 103.053, 103.054, and 103.24; conforming change in R.C. 103.051; Section 516.10)

The bill abolishes the following funds used by LSC and transfers the cash balances to the GRF:

Abolished LSC funds	
Fund name	Purpose
Sale of Publications Fund	Supports the publication of LSC documents
Legislative Budget Services Fund	Previously funded health care analysis services by LSC, but the funding was discontinued in 2015 ¹³⁴
Legislative Agency Telephone Usage Fund	Pays telephone carriers for telephone calls made by legislative agencies
Register of Ohio Fund	Defrays costs of publishing the Register of Ohio

¹³³ O.A.C. 103-5-01 and 103-5-02.

¹³⁴ H.B. 64 of the 131st General Assembly, the FY 2016-FY 2017 biennial appropriations act.