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H.B. 638
133rd General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Rep. Crawley

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SUMMARY

- Establishes the Legislative Youth Advisory Council to examine and facilitate communication between youth and the General Assembly regarding issues of importance to youth.
- Specifies that the Council consists of 2 members from each congressional district and 4 members selected from the state at large, all of whom must be Ohio residents who are between 14 and 19 years of age and enrolled in grades 9-12.
- Requires 2 members of the Senate, 2 members of the House of Representatives, the chairperson of the Governor's Office of Children's Initiatives or any other executive office dealing with children's issues as determined by the Governor, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction (or designee) to serve as advisors to the Council.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Legislative Youth Advisory Council

The bill establishes the Legislative Youth Advisory Council to examine and facilitate communication between youth and the General Assembly regarding issues of importance to youth, including all of the following:

- Education;
- Employment;
- Strategies to increase youth participation in state and local government;
- Safe environments for youth;
- Substance abuse;
- Underage drinking;
- Emotional and physical health;

- Poverty;
- Litter and environmental control;
- Driver's license; and
- Youth access to state and local services.¹

Council membership

The bill specifies that the Council consists of the following members and advisors:

Members	
Number of members	Qualifications
2 members from each congressional district	--Resident of Ohio
4 members selected from the state at large in a manner which reflects the diversity of the state to the greatest extent practicable ²	--Between 14 and 19 years of age --Enrolled in grades 9-12 and attending either a public or private school or receiving home instruction ³ --Appointed by the Governor's Office of Children's Initiatives or any other executive office dealing with children's issues as determined by the Governor ⁴ (see " Selection of Council members " below)
Advisors	
2 members of the Senate appointed by the Senate President	
2 members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives	
The chairperson of the Governor's Office of Children's Initiatives or any other executive office dealing with children's issues as determined by the Governor	
The Superintendent of Public Instruction or the Superintendent's designee ⁵	

¹ R.C. 101.39(A).

² R.C. 101.39(B)(1)(a).

³ R.C. 101.39(C).

⁴ R.C. 101.39(B)(1).

⁵ R.C. 101.39(B)(3).

The bill specifies that Council members serve a term of one year and may be reappointed for a subsequent term so long as they continue to satisfy the residency, age, and grade qualifications listed above. However, no member is permitted to serve more than two consecutive terms.⁶

Additionally, the bill specifies that Council members serve without compensation. However, each appointed legislator Council advisor must receive mileage at the rate established by the General Assembly when attending meetings of the Council that are held on days when other legislative meetings are not held.⁷ The bill is silent regarding compensation for the other advisors appointed to the Council.

Selection of Council members

The bill requires Council members to be selected through an application process developed and approved by the Governor's Office of Children's Initiatives or any other executive office dealing with children's issues as determined by the Governor.⁸ That office must select members from among youth recommended by any of the following:

1. School administrators;
2. Teachers;
3. Individuals who provide home instruction; and
4. Adult representatives of school-sponsored clubs or community organizations which have a mission that supports the ideals of character, leadership, and service, encourages mutual respect and instills civic responsibility, builds courage and confidence among young people through community participation, or promotes the principles of representative democracy in an effort to build stronger communities by increasing civic engagement among youth.⁹

The bill specifies that information contained in the application form for Council membership of any person under 18 years old, other than the name of the applicant, must be confidential and is not subject to disclosure. However, it permits the information on application forms to be used to develop summary or statistical data which contains no personally identifiable information and specifies that the information must be subject to disclosure in the manner provided for public records¹⁰ under current law.¹¹

⁶ R.C. 101.39(D).

⁷ R.C. 101.39(F)(2).

⁸ R.C. 101.39(B)(2).

⁹ R.C. 101.39(B)(1)(c).

¹⁰ R.C. 149.43, not in the bill.

¹¹ R.C. 101.39(G).

Council meetings

The bill requires the chairperson of the Governor's Office of Children's Initiatives, or any other executive office dealing with children's issues as determined by the Governor, to call the first meeting of the Council each year after members have been selected. Officers must be elected for one-year terms at the first meeting each calendar year, including a president (who serves as chair), a vice president, a secretary, a communications officer, and a historian. Any vacancy in an office must be filled with an election by the members of the Council for the remainder of the unexpired term.¹²

The Council must hold at least one public hearing each year for the purpose of receiving youth comment on issues of importance to youth. It may hold other meetings at the call of the Council chair.¹³ All meetings of the Council must be open to the public.¹⁴

The bill requires the Council to set priorities and permits it to establish any committees as may be necessary. It also requires Council members to review and consider which procedures and rules used by the General Assembly may be appropriate for use as models for the Council.¹⁵

Responsibilities of the Council

The bill requires the Council to identify the concerns and needs of youth and advise and make recommendations to members of the General Assembly on proposed or pending legislation and on policy matters related to youth. It also must collect, analyze, and provide information to the standing committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives that deal with primary and secondary education issues and any other legislative committees, commissions, and task forces on issues related to youth.

The Council must submit, by June 30 of each year, a report of its activities, including any recommendations for proposed legislation, to the Governor, the standing committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives that deal with primary and secondary education issues, and the Governor's Office of Children's Initiatives or any other executive office dealing with children's issues as determined by the Governor.¹⁶

Annual seminar

The bill requires Council members to participate in an annual seminar prior to the first day of the school year regarding leadership, government, and the General Assembly.¹⁷

¹² R.C. 101.39(F)(1).

¹³ R.C. 101.39(E)(4).

¹⁴ R.C. 101.39(F)(3).

¹⁵ R.C. 101.39(F)(4) and (5).

¹⁶ R.C. 101.39(E)(1), (2), and (5).

¹⁷ R.C. 101.39(E)(3).

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	05-19-20
