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S.B. 219*
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Reported by Senate Finance

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Craig

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SUMMARY

- Changes the name of the “Commission on African American Males” to the “Commission on African-Americans.”
- Specifies that the Commission is required to direct its various efforts for African-Americans rather than, as in current law, specifically for black males.
- Transfers to the Ohio State University Bell National Resource Center certain responsibilities with respect to the Commission.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Commission on African-Americans

The bill changes the name of the “Commission on African American Males” to the “Commission on African-Americans.”¹ Further, it specifies that the Commission is required to direct its various efforts for African-Americans rather than, as in current law, specifically for black males.²

Current law enables the Commission on African-American Males and sets forth a relationship between the Commission and the Ohio State University African American and African Studies Community Extension Center (CEC).³ The bill transfers all of the responsibilities

* This analysis was prepared before the report of the Senate Finance Committee appeared in the Senate Journal. Note that the legislative history may be incomplete.

¹ R.C. 4112.12(A), and R.C. 125.22 and 6301.10 (conforming).

² R.C. 4112.13.

³ R.C. 4112.12 and 4112.13.

established in current Commission law for the CEC, to the Ohio State University Bell National Resource Center, and requires the Commission to maintain its office at the Center.⁴ These two Ohio State University entities are briefly described as follows:

- The Ohio State University Department of African American and African Studies, within the College of Arts and Sciences, operates the CEC. The “CEC strives to provide academic and community education opportunities for its Near Eastside neighbors and the greater Central Ohio community. Through collaborations with academic and student support units throughout The Ohio State University, the CEC is a space for faculty, students, and staff to engage Columbus communities through educational opportunities and social change-focused programs.”⁵
- The Ohio State University Office of Diversity and Inclusion established the Bell National Resource Center on the African American Male as an “on campus centralized location to concentrate efforts to increase the retention and graduation rates of African American men.”⁶

The responsibilities transferred to the Bell National Resource Center include a requirement to do all of the following:

- Make numerous appointments to the Commission (See “**Commission membership**,” below);⁷
- Appoint the Executive Director of the Commission;⁸
- Establish the overall policy and management of the Commission and direct, manage, and oversee the Commission;
- Develop overall policies and plans that must be implemented by the Commission;
- Prescribe duties and responsibilities of the Commission;⁹ and
- Annually contract for a report on the status of African Americans in Ohio;¹⁰

⁴ R.C. 4112.12(E).

⁵ [Community Extension Center](#), which is available on the Ohio State University’s website: [osu.edu](#).

⁶ [Bell National Resource Center on the African American Male](#), which is available on the Ohio State University’s website: [osu.edu](#).

⁷ R.C. 4112.12(A).

⁸ R.C. 4112.12(D).

⁹ R.C. 4112.12(F) and (G).

¹⁰ R.C. 4112.12(H).

Commission membership

The bill adds to the Commission one new member, who must have experience in the philanthropic community. This new member must be appointed by the Bell National Resource Center in consultation with the Governor.

The bill reduces to 13 the total membership of the Commission by eliminating numerous positions, including the following ex-officio members or the ex-officio member's designee:

1. The Equal Employment Opportunity Officer of the Department of Administrative Services;
2. The Executive Director of the Ohio Civil Rights Commission; and
3. The Executive Director of the Division of Criminal Justice Services in the Department of Public Safety.

Current law requires the CEC, in consultation with the Governor, to appoint four members from the private corporate sector, at least four members from the public sector, and two members from the nonprofit sector. The bill eliminates all of these positions and instead requires two members to be appointed from the private corporate sector or from the nonprofit sector.¹¹

Specifically, the bill provides that, on the bill's effective date, Commission members who were appointed and are serving on that date as members from the private corporate sector, the public sector, and the nonprofit sector, cease to be members of the Commission. And the bill requires that, not later than 30 days after the bill's effective date, the Ohio State University Bell National Resource Center, in consultation with the Governor, appoint to the Commission the two members from the private corporate sector or from the nonprofit sector, and the one member with experience in the philanthropic community, that is mentioned above. Terms for these appointments are for three years. An individual whose membership on the Commission was terminated under the bill may be reappointed provided that the individual meets the qualifications.¹²

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	08-19-21
Reported, S. Finance	---

ANSB0219RS-134/ar

¹¹ R.C. 4112.12(A).

¹² Section 3.