OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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H.B. 445
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Dovilla and Stewart

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SUMMARY

- Prohibits a metropolitan planning organization (MPO) from including a majority of voting members from one county.
- Allows an eligible county to ask the Governor to redesignate the county into a different, adjoining MPO; allows the Governor to redesignate the county.
- Prohibits an MPO from adopting policies, regulations, or standards that are more stringent than corresponding state and federal policies, regulations, or standards.
- Prohibits the individual who serves as the chief executive officer of a regional council of governments that is an MPO from holding employment outside of Ohio.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Metropolitan planning organization changes

Metropolitan planning organizations (MPO) are federally mandated planning organizations required for each urbanized area with a population of more than 50,000. MPOs in Ohio are designated by the Governor and take numerous forms – regional planning commissions,[1] regional councils of governments,[2] interstate regional planning commission,[3] and others. The bill makes four MPO-related changes.

[1] R.C. 713.21, not in the bill.

[2] Chapter 167 of the Revised Code.

[3] R.C. 713.30 *et seq.*, not in the bill.

First, the bill prohibits an MPO from including a majority of voting members from one county.[4] Membership on a regional council, regional commission, or other entity that functions as an MPO varies depending on its formation, with membership typically being dictated by the members themselves by agreement or otherwise. The bill also prohibits the individual who serves as the chief executive officer of an MPO formulated as a regional council of governments from holding employment outside of Ohio.[5]

Under the bill, an eligible county can ask the Governor to redesignate the county into a different, adjoining MPO. A county is eligible to request this redesignation if it is part of an MPO but 25% of the county's workforce population commutes to an adjoining county that is partially or wholly located in a different MPO, according to the most recent commuter statistics (excludes any percentage of the workforce that commutes to a different state). The board of county commissioners must adopt a resolution making the request and send that resolution to the Governor. The Governor must decide within 60 days of receiving the request, then take the necessary steps to redesignate the county.[6]

Finally, the bill prohibits an MPO from adopting policies, regulations, or standards that are more stringent than any corresponding state and federal policies, regulations, or standards.[7]

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	09-15-25

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[4] R.C. 713.43 and 167.02.

[5] R.C. 167.04.

[6] R.C. 713.41.

[7] R.C. 731.42.