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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Office

S.B. 117
135th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 117's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Reported by Senate Workforce and Higher Education

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Cirino and McColley

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The bill appropriates \$5.0 million in each of FY 2024 and FY 2025 from the GRF for the Salmon P. Chase Center for Civics, Culture, and Society, established by the bill as an independent unit within the Ohio State University.
- The bill also appropriates \$1.0 million in FY 2024 and \$2.0 million in FY 2025 from the GRF for the Institute of American Constitutional Thought and Leadership, established by the bill as an independent academic unit within the University of Toledo.

Detailed Analysis

Salmon P. Chase Center for Civics, Culture, and Society

The bill establishes the Salmon P. Chase Center for Civics, Culture, and Society, as an independent unit (initially located at the College of Public Affairs) within the Ohio State University (OSU) to conduct teaching and research in the historical ideas, traditions, and texts that have shaped the American constitutional order and society. The bill requires the OSU Board of Trustees, no later than 60 days after the bill's effective date, to appoint, with the advice and consent of the Senate, a seven-member academic council that will conduct a nationwide search for candidates for a director of the Chase Center, who will oversee the hiring process and the development of the Chase Center's curriculum. Additionally, the Director must consult with the Dean of the College of Public Affairs, but will report directly to the Provost, Vice-Provost, or President of OSU. The bill requires at least 15 tenure-track faculty positions to be allotted to teach at the Chase Center.

In order to support the Chase Center's creation and initial operations, the bill appropriates \$5.0 million in each of FY 2024 and FY 2025 from GRF line item 235533, Program and Project Support, in the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) budget. According to a

representative of OSU, the salary and benefits for the director and faculty will be approximately \$3.0 million each year. The remaining \$2.0 million will support the Chase Center's operating costs, including those for administrative staff and supplies and equipment. Finally, OSU anticipates one-time costs for faculty recruitment and renovating office space for the Chase Center. Personnel expenses in the first year will likely be less than when the Chase Center is fully operational, since it is expected that it will take some time to hire all of the faculty and staff. Eventually operating costs may be offset somewhat by additional tuition revenue received from students enrolling in courses at the Chase Center and subsidy received from ODHE under the State Share of Instruction (SSI) formula for students who complete those courses.

Institute of American Constitutional Thought and Leadership

The bill establishes the Institute of American Constitutional Thought and Leadership, as an independent academic unit (initially located at the College of Law) within the University of Toledo (UT) to create and disseminate knowledge about American constitutional thought and to form future leaders of the legal profession through research, scholarship, teaching, collaboration, and mentorship. Similar to the Chase Center, UT's Board of Trustees must appoint, with the advice and consent of the Senate, a seven-member academic council no later than 60 days after the bill's effective date. Additionally, the bill requires UT's President to appoint a director, who will report directly to the President and Provost of UT and consult with the Dean of the College of Law, no later than 30 days after the bill's effective date. The director will hire and appoint all of the Institute's faculty and staff and supervise all of its activities.

In order to support the Institute's creation and initial operations, the bill appropriates \$1.0 million in FY 2024 and \$2.0 million in FY 2025 from GRF line item 235533, Program and Project Support. According to a representative of UT, the Institute will hire faculty members, affiliate with faculty from UT and other institutions, and invite visiting scholars, jurists, and attorneys to teach over the Institute's first three years of operation. When fully operational, personnel costs for the director, faculty, and administrative staff and for a variety of stipends for professorships, faculty associates, and visiting scholars and jurists are expected to be more than \$1.5 million each year. UT also plans to spend approximately \$325,000 each year to provide stipends to student fellows, research assistants, and summer fellowships. Other costs for research support, travel, outreach and marketing, and supplies and equipment are estimated to be \$335,000 each year. Finally, UT estimates a one-time cost of \$255,000 to renovate office space for the Institute, purchase furnishings and equipment, recruit faculty, and other expenses. Overall, UT believes that the amounts appropriated for the Institute in the bill are sufficient to cover its expenses in FY 2024 and FY 2025. Like the Chase Center, operating costs may be eventually offset somewhat by additional tuition revenue received from students enrolling in courses at the Institute and subsidy received from ODHE under the SSI formula for students who complete those courses.