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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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S.B. 71
133rd General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Williams

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SUMMARY

- Establishes a committee to study the progress and challenges African Americans face in Ohio and requires it to submit an initial report of its findings by December 31, 2019, and a final report by October 31, 2020, to the General Assembly and news media outlets.
- Makes an appropriation.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Committee to study African Americans in Ohio

The bill establishes a committee, in recognition of the 400th anniversary of African Americans in Ohio and the United States, to study the progress and specific challenges that African Americans face in Ohio. As part of this study, the bill requires the committee to review various reports regarding African Americans in Ohio, including the Report of the Ohio Commission on Racial Fairness, the Governor's Task Force Report on Black and Minority Health, and any other reports prepared in Ohio that the committee deems relevant.

Reporting requirements

After completing the review of the aforementioned reports, the bill requires the committee to prepare an initial report that details the progress or lack thereof for African Americans in Ohio regarding the following:

- Housing;
- Transportation;
- Health;
- Education;
- Employment;

- Environment;
- Business development and any other policy area the committee deems relevant;
- Contributions and achievements by African Americans in Ohio; and
- Recommendations for addressing any challenges identified by the committee.

The bill specifies that the initial report must be submitted by December 31, 2019, to the General Assembly and news media outlets. The initial report must also include the schedule for upcoming public hearings (see below).

Public hearings

Not earlier than three months after submitting its initial report, the committee must reconvene to hold public hearings in various parts of the state regarding its findings in the initial report. The committee will determine how many hearings to hold, the schedule, and location, however, the bill stipulates that the hearings must be held over a period of time that does not exceed four months.

Upon completion of the hearings, the bill requires the committee to revise its initial report based on any information gathered during the hearings and submit its final report by October 31, 2020, to the General Assembly and also news media outlets. The bill stipulates that upon submission of the final report the committee is abolished.

Committee members

The bill stipulates that the committee must consist of the following members:

- Ten members appointed by the Governor;
- Five members appointed by the President of the Senate;
- Five members appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate;
- Five members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and
- Five members appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

The bill also specifies that the appointed members must be representatives of the following entities:

- The Ohio History Connection;
- The National Museum of Afro-American History and Culture;
- The Ohio Civil Rights Commission; and
- Public and private research institutions in Ohio including the John Glenn College of Public Affairs and the Kirwan Institution for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at the Ohio State University, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland State University, and the Health Policy Institute of Ohio.

The bill requires the committee to select, through an application process, a research institute to provide staff support to the committee. The bill remains silent on the application process.

The committee is also permitted to establish subcommittees as it sees fit and may appoint additional members who are not members of the original committee.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-26-19
