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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

**S.B. 195**  
**135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

## **Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement**

[Click here for S.B. 195's Bill Analysis](#)

**Version:** As Passed by the House

**Primary Sponsor:** Sen. Manning

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

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### **Highlights**

- The bill creates the 11-member Ohio River Commission of Ohio within the Department of Development (DEV). The members would be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses. The main purpose of the Commission would be to promote and develop a master plan for Ohio River infrastructure, including transportation projects.
- The bill requires the Commission to maintain an office in Columbus and hire at least two employees. Annual personnel costs for these administrators could range from nearly \$130,000 to approximately \$300,000 for an Executive Director 1 and Administrative Professional 2, including retirement and health care benefits.
- The bill establishes the Ohio River Commission of Ohio Fund to cover operating costs. The bill also authorizes DEV to identify amounts from its budget that can be used to support the Commission.
- The bill creates the nine-member Ohio Ireland Trade Commission. Members would be reimbursed for actual expenses to be paid from a new Ohio Ireland Trade Commission Fund, as funding allows. There may be some minor additional expenses for the Commission to prepare an annual report of its findings and recommendations.
- The Ohio Ireland Trade Commission Fund created by the bill is permitted to collect any funds raised by the Commission, as well as any grants, gifts, or bequests.

### **Detailed Analysis**

#### **Ohio River Commission of Ohio**

The bill creates the 11-member Ohio River Commission of Ohio within the Department of Development (DEV) to promote economic development and infrastructure along the waterway

by issuing grants and loans and carrying out other specified functions. Specifically, the bill requires the Commission to employ an executive director, a secretary-treasurer, and other employees that the Commission needs to carry out its functions. Annual payroll costs for an Executive Director 1 and an Administrative Professional 2 under the state's job classification plan could range from nearly \$130,000 to approximately \$300,000. This includes the state's share of the employees' retirement and coverage for either single or family health care coverage. Also under the bill, the Commission must maintain a principal office in Columbus and may maintain regional sub-offices at locations properly designated by the Commission. DEV may be able to house the Commission in Columbus using existing office space. Members of the Commission would be reimbursed for their expenses in carrying out their official duties. Finally, the bill requires other state entities, in particular DEV and the Ohio Department of Transportation, to offer research and data to support the Commission's mission.

The bill allows the Commission to issue grants and loans for the development of Ohio River infrastructure or for continuing or instituting Ohio River transportation in Ohio. Under the bill, the Controlling Board must approve any expenditures by DEV, the Commission, or any other state agency for capital improvements to promote economic development, marine cargo terminal operations, and travel and tourism on the Ohio River and its tributaries. To fund these various economic development activities, the bill creates the Ohio River Commission of Ohio Fund which consists of money received from any sale, transfer, or lease of property. Additionally, the bill allows DEV to use any appropriate source of revenue to assist the Commission in its work.

### **Ohio Ireland Trade Commission**

The bill creates the Ohio Ireland Trade Commission, which is required to study certain economic and policy issues and potential business and academic exchanges. Within 15 months after the bill takes effect and annually thereafter, the Commission is to file a report of its activities, findings, and recommendations. Details pertaining to the composition, procedures, and activities of the Commission can be found in the [LSC bill analysis](#). The Commission consists of nine members, who are not compensated, but are permitted to be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, within the limits of available funds.

The bill allows the Commission to raise funds through direct solicitation or other fundraising events. It may also accept gifts, grants, and bequests from individuals, corporations, foundations, governmental agencies, and public and private organizations. The proceeds from fundraising and donations are required to be deposited into a newly created Ohio Ireland Trade Commission Fund.