



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Cody Weisbrodt

H.B. 122

131st General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Leland, Antonio, Cera, Rogers, G. Johnson, Fedor, Roegner, Curtin, K. Smith, Ramos, Sykes, Bishoff, Slesnick, Phillips, Driehaus, S. O'Brien, Lepore-Hagan, Sheehy, Patterson

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires at least one member of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to be a member of or affiliated with each major party.
- Permits no more than three Commission members to be affiliated with the same major party.
- Requires the Public Utilities Commission Nominating Council to include individuals on the list of nominees provided to the Governor as necessary to ensure that each major political party is represented on the PUCO.
- Prohibits the Public Utilities Commission Nominating Council from including individuals on the list of nominees if appointing that individual would result in more than three Commission members being members of or affiliated with the same major political party.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

The bill alters the composition of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to require that at least one Commission member is a member of or affiliated with each major political party.¹ Continuing law defines "major political party" as any party organized under Ohio law whose candidate for Governor or nominees for presidential electors received at least 20% of the total votes cast for that office in the

¹ R.C. 4901.02(A).

most recent regular state election.² Under the bill, each major political party is guaranteed at least one commissioner that is a member of or affiliated with that party, but each party is allowed no more than three commissioners on the PUCO. Current law permits no more than three commissioners that are members of or affiliated with the same political party on the PUCO, but does not require that all major political parties be represented.³

Public Utilities Commission Nominating Council

The bill requires the Public Utilities Commission Nominating Council, when providing a list to the Governor of nominees, to nominate individuals as necessary to ensure that each major party is represented on the PUCO. Current law does not guarantee minimum representation for major political parties, but does prevent the Council from nominating any individual for appointment by the Governor if that individual's appointment would result in more than three members of the PUCO belonging to the same political party. The bill also specifies that the Council must not nominate any individual if that individual's appointment would result in more than three members of the PUCO belonging to the same *major* political party, rather than just the same political party as in current law.⁴

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	03-16-15

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² R.C. 3501.01(F), not in the bill.

³ R.C. 4901.02(A).

⁴ R.C. 4901.021(D)(2).

