

As Introduced

133rd General Assembly

Regular Session

2019-2020

S. B. No. 261

Senators Yuko, Rulli

A BILL

To enact sections 107.22, 107.23, and 107.24 of the
Revised Code to create the Commission on Eastern
European Affairs and the Office of Eastern
European Affairs and to make an appropriation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 107.22, 107.23, and 107.24 of the
Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

Sec. 107.22. (A) (1) There is created the commission on
eastern European affairs. The commission shall be made up of the
following members:

(a) Three members appointed by the governor, with the
advice and consent of the senate, to serve a term ending one
year after the appointment;

(b) Four members appointed by the governor, with the
advice and consent of the senate, to serve a term ending two
years after the appointment;

(c) Four members appointed by the governor, with the
advice and consent of the senate, to serve a term ending three
years after the appointment;

(d) Two nonvoting members who are members of the house of 19
representatives and appointed by the speaker of the house of 20
representatives, with one member being from the majority party 21
and one member being from the minority party; 22

(e) Two nonvoting members who are members of the senate 23
and appointed by the president of the senate, with one member 24
being from the majority party and one member being from the 25
minority party. 26

(2) The speaker of the house of representatives shall 27
recommend to the governor two persons and the minority leader of 28
the house of representatives shall recommend to the governor one 29
person to be appointed under division (A) (1) (a), (b), or (c) of 30
this section. 31

(3) The president of the senate shall recommend to the 32
governor two persons and the minority leader of the senate shall 33
recommend to the governor one person to be appointed under 34
division (A) (1) (a), (b), or (c) of this section. 35

(4) Members appointed under divisions (A) (1) (a), (b), and 36
(c) of this section shall be of eastern European origin, United 37
States citizens or lawful, permanent, residents, representative 38
of various geographical regions of eastern European people, and 39
proportionally representative of the eastern European 40
composition of the state. 41

(B) (1) After the initial appointments, each term of office 42
for members appointed under divisions (A) (1) (a), (b), and (c) of 43
this section shall be for three years. The members shall serve 44
from the date of the members' appointment until the end of the 45
three-year term for which the members were appointed. 46

(2) Except for members appointed under divisions (A) (1) (d) 47

and (e) of this section, members shall remain in office after 48
the members' term has expired until the earlier of the following 49
occur: 50

(a) A successor to the office is appointed; 51

(b) Thirty days have passed since the end of a member's 52
term and no successor has been appointed. 53

(3) Members appointed to the commission under divisions 54
(A) (1) (d) and (e) of this section shall serve until the ending 55
date of the members' term as members of the general assembly. 56

(4) Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as 57
appointment. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve 58
the remainder of the original term for which the vacancy was 59
filled. 60

(C) The commission shall meet not less than six times 61
during a calendar year. During the first meeting, the commission 62
shall elect a chairperson, vice-chairperson, and other officers 63
from its members appointed under divisions (A) (1) (a), (b), and 64
(c) of this section. The commission shall prescribe rules to 65
govern the commission. 66

(D) Six voting members constitute a quorum and no action 67
shall be taken without the affirmative vote of six voting 68
members. 69

(E) Members appointed under divisions (A) (1) (a), (b), and 70
(c) of this section shall be compensated for actual and 71
necessary expenses incurred and for each day that a member is 72
engaged in commission duties, not to exceed one day per month. 73

Sec. 107.23. (A) The commission on eastern European 74
affairs shall do all of the following: 75

- (1) Gather and disseminate information and conduct 76
hearings, conferences, investigations, and special studies on 77
issues and programs concerning eastern European people; 78
- (2) Secure appropriate recognition of accomplishments and 79
contributions of eastern European people to the state; 80
- (3) Promote public awareness of the issues ~~of~~ eastern 81
European people by conducting a program of public education; 82
- (4) Develop, coordinate, and assist other public and 83
private organizations that serve eastern European people, 84
including conducting training programs for community leadership 85
and service project staff; 86
- (5) Advise the governor, general assembly, and state 87
departments and agencies regarding the nature, magnitude, and 88
priorities of the issues of eastern European people; 89
- (6) Advise the governor, general assembly, and state 90
departments and agencies on the special needs of eastern 91
European people regarding education, employment, energy, health, 92
housing, welfare, and recreation and develop and implement 93
policies and programs to address those needs; 94
- (7) Propose new programs concerning eastern European 95
people to public and private agencies and evaluate any existing 96
programs within agencies; 97
- (8) Review and approve grants from federal, state, or 98
private funds that are administered or subcontracted by the 99
office of eastern European affairs under section 107.24 of the 100
Revised Code; 101
- (9) Review and approve the annual report prepared by the 102
office of eastern European affairs under section 107.24 of the 103

Revised Code; 104

(10) Coordinate and provide information regarding 105
available state services to meet the needs of eastern European 106
people; 107

(11) Appoint a director to the office of eastern European 108
affairs. 109

(B) As used in this section and sections 107.22 and 107.24 110
of the Revised Code, "eastern European people" means persons who 111
possess either of the following characteristics: 112

(1) Use an eastern European language as the person's 113
primary language; 114

(2) Identify as or are regarded in the community as being 115
of Albanian, Belarusian, Bosnian and Herzegovinian, Bulgarian, 116
Carpatho-Rusyn, Croatian, Czech, east European Jewish, Estonian, 117
Greek, Hungarian, Kashubian, Kosovar, Latvian, Lithuanian, 118
Lusatian Sorbian, Macedonian, Moldovans, Montenegrins, Polish, 119
Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovenian, Transylvanian Saxon, 120
Ukranian, or any other eastern European origin. 121

Sec. 107.24. (A) There is created the office of eastern 122
European affairs. The office shall serve the commission on 123
eastern European affairs, which shall appoint a director for the 124
office. The director shall serve at the pleasure of the 125
commission. 126

(B) The director of the office of eastern European 127
affairs, with approval of the commission on eastern European 128
affairs, shall appoint employees as are necessary to carry out 129
the duties of the office. The employees shall serve at the 130
pleasure of the director. 131

- (C) The office shall do all of the following: 132
- (1) Provide information and advise the commission of 133
eastern European affairs on proposed solutions to problems of 134
eastern European people; 135
- (2) Serve as a clearinghouse to review and comment on all 136
proposals to meet the needs of eastern European people that are 137
submitted to the office by public and private agencies; 138
- (3) Apply for and accept grants and gifts from government 139
and private sources to be administered by the office or 140
subcontracted to local agencies, as long as the local agencies 141
use the grants and gifts for the public purpose intended; 142
- (4) Monitor and evaluate all programs subcontracted to 143
local agencies by the commission on eastern European affairs and 144
ensure that any grants and gifts from the government are being 145
used for the public purpose intended; 146
- (5) Endeavor to ensure that eastern European people have 147
access to decision-making bodies in all state and local 148
government departments and agencies; 149
- (6) Submit a written annual report of the office's 150
activities, accomplishments, and recommendations to the 151
commission on eastern European affairs; 152
- (7) Establish an advisory committee for special subjects, 153
as needed, to facilitate and maximize community participation in 154
the operation of the commission on eastern European affairs. An 155
advisory committee shall be made up of persons representing 156
community organizations, charitable institutions, public 157
officials, and other persons as determined by the office. 158
- (8) Establish relationships with local governments, state 159

governments, and private businesses that promote and ensure 160
equal opportunity for eastern European people in government, 161
education, and employment. 162

Section 2. All items in this section are hereby 163
appropriated as designated out of any moneys in the state 164
treasury to the credit of the designated fund. For all 165
appropriations made in this act, those in the first column are 166
for fiscal year 2020 and those in the second column are for 167
fiscal year 2021. The appropriations made in this act are in 168
addition to any other appropriations made for the FY 2020-FY 169
2021 biennium. 170

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	1	2	3	4	5
A	EEA COMMISSION ON EASTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS				
B	General Revenue Fund				
C	GRF	147401	Operating	\$ 440,944	\$ 440,944
			Expenses		
D	TOTAL GRF General Revenue Fund			\$ 440,944	\$ 440,994
E	TOTAL ALL BUDGET FUND GROUPS			\$ 440,944	\$ 440,944

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Section 3. Within the limits set forth in this act, the 173
Director of Budget and Management shall establish accounts 174
indicating the source and amount of funds for each appropriation 175
made in this act, and shall determine the form and manner in 176

which appropriation accounts shall be maintained. Expenditures 177
from appropriations contained in this act shall be accounted for 178
as though made in the main operating appropriations act of the 179
133rd General Assembly. 180

The appropriations made in this act are subject to all 181
provisions of the main appropriations act of the 133rd General 182
Assembly that are generally applicable to such appropriations. 183