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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

S.B. 117  
135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

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

**Version:** As Passed by the Senate

**Primary Sponsors:** Sens. Cirino and McColley

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

Jason Glover, Budget Analyst

### 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 academic unit within the Ohio State University.
- The bill appropriates \$2.0 million in each of FY 2024 and FY 2025 from the GRF to each of three centers for civics, culture, and society, established by the bill as independent academic units within Cleveland State University, Miami University, and the University of Cincinnati.
- The bill also appropriates \$1.0 million in each of FY 2024 and 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

#### Overview

The bill appropriates a total of \$12.0 million in each fiscal year from GRF line item 235533, Program and Project Support, in the Ohio Department of Higher Education's (ODHE) budget, to establish five independent academic units within Cleveland State University (CSU), Miami University (Miami), the Ohio State University (OSU), the University of Cincinnati (UC), and the University of Toledo (UT). Each of these provisions is discussed below in more detail. Note that the provisions of this bill were enacted as part of H.B. 33, the main operating appropriations act of the 135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

## **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 academic unit (physically located at the College of Public Affairs) within 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 November 20, 2023, 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 have the sole and exclusive authority in hiring faculty and staff and will oversee, develop, and approve 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 or President of OSU. The director will submit an annual report regarding the Chase Center's achievements and challenges to the OSU Board of Trustees and the General Assembly. 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 line item 235533. 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.

### **Centers for civics, culture, and society**

The bill establishes centers for civics, culture, and society, similar to the Chase Center, as independent academic units within CSU, Miami, and UC to conduct teaching and research in the historical ideas, traditions, and texts that have shaped the American constitutional order and society. Centers at UC and Miami must be physically located in their respective college of arts and sciences, while the center at CSU must be located in the Levin College of Public Affairs and Education. The bill permits the board of trustees of each university to name the center in accordance with the philanthropic naming policies and practices of the university, and requires them, no later than December 31, 2023, 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 each center. Each director will have the sole and exclusive authority in hiring faculty and staff and will oversee, develop, and approve each center's curriculum. Additionally, each director must consult with the dean of the college in which it resides, but will report directly to the provost or president of each university. Each director will submit an annual report regarding the center's achievements and challenges to the university's board of trustees and the General Assembly. The bill requires at least ten tenure-track faculty positions to be allotted to teach at each center.

Each university is appropriated \$2.0 million in each of FY 2024 and FY 2025 from line item 235533 to support the creation and initial operations of these centers. Similar to OSU, operating costs for each university may be eventually offset somewhat by additional tuition revenue

received from students enrolling in courses at each new center and subsidy received from ODHE under the 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 (physically located at the College of Law) within 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 have the sole and exclusive authority in hiring all of the Institute's faculty and staff and will oversee, develop, and approve the Institute's curriculum. The director will submit an annual report regarding the Institute's achievements and challenges to the UT Board of Trustees and the General Assembly. The bill requires at least five tenure-track faculty positions to be allotted to teach at the Institute.

In order to support the Institute's creation and initial operations, the bill appropriates \$1.0 million in each of FY 2024 and FY 2025 from line item 235533. 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. Like the other universities, 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.