

**As Introduced**

**134th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2021-2022**

**H. B. No. 173**

**Representatives Click, Pavliga**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Ginter, Gross, John, McClain, Schmidt, Stoltzfus,  
White**

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**A BILL**

To enact section 5101.39 of the Revised Code to 1  
establish the Ohio Family Stability Commission. 2

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

**Section 1.** That section 5101.39 of the Revised Code be 3  
enacted to read as follows: 4

Sec. 5101.39. (A) There is created in the department of 5  
job and family services the Ohio family stability commission. 6  
The commission shall consider information on a variety of issues 7  
that may have an affect on family stability, recommend 8  
legislation to the general assembly or rules to a state agency 9  
to advance policies that address those issues, and monitor 10  
related legislation and rule-making processes. 11

(B) The commission shall consist of six members of the 12  
general assembly and other individuals who are government agency 13  
representatives, private citizens, or appointed or elected 14  
officials other than members of the general assembly. 15

Of the general assembly members, three shall be appointed 16  
by the president of the senate, at least one of whom shall not 17

be from the political party of the president, and three shall be 18  
appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, at 19  
least one of whom shall not be from the political party of the 20  
speaker. 21

The governor shall appoint at least three but not more 22  
than five members. The chair of the commission, with the consent 23  
of the vice-chair, may appoint to the commission not more than 24  
three private citizens who have experience or knowledge on 25  
issues of concern to the commission. The vice-chair, with the 26  
consent of the chair, may appoint to the commission not more 27  
than two private citizens who have experience or knowledge on 28  
issues of concern to the commission. 29

Each odd-numbered year, the speaker of the house shall 30  
select a member of the commission, who is a member of the house 31  
of representatives, to serve as chair, and each even-numbered 32  
year the speaker shall select such a person to serve as vice- 33  
chair. Each even-numbered year the president of the senate shall 34  
select a member of the commission, who is a member of the 35  
senate, to serve as chair, and each odd-numbered year the 36  
president shall select such a person to serve as vice-chair. 37

The term for each commission member shall commence upon 38  
appointment and expire the thirty-first day of December in the 39  
second year of the general assembly during which the member was 40  
appointed to the commission. Commission members shall serve at 41  
the pleasure of their appointing authorities. Vacancies shall be 42  
filled in the manner provided for original appointments. 43

(C) Members of the commission who are members of the 44  
general assembly, government agency representatives, or 45  
appointed or elected officials, shall serve without 46  
compensation, except to the extent that serving on the 47

commission is considered part of their regular duties of 48  
employment. Members of the commission who are private citizens 49  
shall be paid an amount fixed pursuant to division (J) of 50  
section 124.15 of the Revised Code for each day or portion 51  
thereof spent in the discharge of the member's official duties. 52  
All members of the commission shall be reimbursed for actual and 53  
necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of commission 54  
duties. 55

(D) The department of job and family services shall 56  
provide staffing assistance. This division does not require the 57  
department to employ personnel the department otherwise would 58  
not have employed. 59

(E) The commission shall formulate recommendations for 60  
consideration by the general assembly, appropriate state 61  
agencies, and other appropriate entities concerning societal 62  
issues that impact the stability of families in this state. Not 63  
later than one year after the effective date of this section, 64  
and biennially thereafter, the commission shall submit to the 65  
general assembly, in the manner specified in section 101.68 of 66  
the Revised Code, and to the governor, a report describing each 67  
recommendation and the information considered that informed the 68  
recommendation. 69

At a minimum, the commission's recommendations shall 70  
address all of the following: 71

(1) Strategies for reducing the divorce rate in this 72  
state; 73

(2) Strategies for reducing the number of conceptions, 74  
abortions, and births occurring outside of marriage in this 75  
state; 76

<u>(3) Strategies for reducing the rate of domestic violence</u>	77
<u>in this state;</u>	78
<u>(4) Strategies for reducing the rate of child abuse in</u>	79
<u>this state;</u>	80
<u>(5) Issues concerning child custody and child support;</u>	81
<u>(6) Societal issues that discourage or prevent couples</u>	82
<u>from engaging in marriage;</u>	83
<u>(7) Societal issues concerning the effect of substance</u>	84
<u>abuse and addiction on family stability.</u>	85
<u>(F) The commission shall monitor legislative and rule-</u>	86
<u>making activities derived from the recommendations formulated</u>	87
<u>under division (E) of this section.</u>	88