

As Introduced

**131st General Assembly
Regular Session
2015-2016**

H. B. No. 539

Representative Boyce

A BILL

To enact section 107.22 of the Revised Code to 1
create the office for New Americans. 2

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

Section 1. That section 107.22 of the Revised Code be 3
enacted to read as follows: 4

Sec. 107.22. (A) As used in this section: 5

(1) "New American" means a person residing in this state 6
who is not a United States citizen or United States national. 7

(2) "ESOL" means English for speakers of other languages. 8

(B) There is created in the governor's executive cabinet 9
the office for new Americans. The governor shall designate the 10
director of the governor's office for new Americans. The 11
director shall report directly to the office of the governor. 12
The director may appoint employees as are necessary to exercise 13
the powers and duties of the office. 14

(C) The governor's office for new Americans shall 15
represent the interests of new Americans in this state. The 16
duties of the director of the office shall include the 17
following: 18

- (1) Increase access to ESOL training by engaging not-for-profit organizations and other qualified providers for ESOL; 19
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- (2) Provide resources to new Americans for the naturalization process and applications for deferred action for childhood arrivals; 21
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- (3) Connect new Americans to resources that develop and utilize their skills, employment referral programs, and other workforce development programs; 24
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- (4) Encourage connections between new Americans and their communities through the following: 27
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- (a) Advise the governor concerning matters affecting new Americans in this state to encourage better participation of new Americans in civic and economic opportunities; 29
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- (b) Assist local governments in developing activities to enhance civic engagement. 32
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- (5) Strive to reduce exploitation of new Americans; 34
- (6) Coordinate with state agencies to carry out the director's duties. 35
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- (D) By the thirtieth day of June each year, the director of the governor's office for new Americans shall deliver to the governor and the general assembly an annual report that includes an outline of any workforce programs utilized, a summary of communication received through the office, and information on ESOL training services provided. 37
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