As Passed by the Senate

135th General Assembly

Regular Session 2023-2024

Am. Sub. S. B. No. 117

Senators Cirino, McColley

Cosponsors: Senators Brenner, Gavarone, Huffman, S., Johnson, O'Brien, Schaffer, Wilkin

A BILL

То	enact sections 3335.39, 3339.06, 3344.07,	1
	3361.06, and 3364.07 of the Revised Code to	2
	establish the Salmon P. Chase Center for Civics,	3
	Culture, and Society at the Ohio State	4
	University, to establish the Institute of	5
	American Constitutional Thought and Leadership	6
	at the University of Toledo, to establish	7
	similar centers at the University of Cincinnati,	8
	Miami University, and Cleveland State	9
	University, and to make an appropriation.	10

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

Section 1. That sections 3335.39, 3339.06, 3344.07,	11
3361.06, and 3364.07 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as	12
follows:	13
Sec. 3335.39. (A) (1) The Salmon P. Chase center for	14
civics, culture, and society is established as an independent	15
academic unit within the Ohio state university, physically	16
located in the college of public affairs. The center shall	17
conduct teaching and research in the historical ideas,	18

traditions, and texts that have shaped the American	19
constitutional order and society.	20
(2) The center shall establish bylaws requiring the center	21
to do all of the following:	22
(a) Educate students by means of free, open, and rigorous	23
intellectual inquiry to seek the truth;	24
(b) Affirm its duty to equip students with the skills,	25
habits, and dispositions of mind they need to reach their own	26
informed conclusions on matters of social and political	27
<pre>importance;</pre>	28
(c) Affirm the value of intellectual diversity in higher	29
education and aspire to enhance the intellectual diversity of	30
the university;	31
(d) Affirm a commitment to create a community dedicated to	32
an ethic of civil and free inquiry, which respects the	33
intellectual freedom of each member, supports individual	34
capacities for growth, and welcomes the differences of opinion	35
that shall naturally exist in a public university community.	36
The requirements prescribed under divisions (A)(2)(a) to	37
(d) of this section shall take priority over any other bylaws	38
adopted by the center.	39
(3) The board of trustees of the university may change the	40
name of the center in accordance with the philanthropic naming	41
policies and practices of the university.	42
(B) The center shall be an independent academic unit	43
physically located at the college of public affairs with the	44
authority to house tenure-track faculty who hold their	45
appointments within the center. Faculty appointed to the center_	46

shall not be required, but may, hold joint appointments within	47
any other division of the university. Not fewer than fifteen	48
tenure-track faculty positions shall be allotted to teach under	49
the center. No faculty outside of the center shall have the	50
authority to block faculty hires into the center.	51
(C)(1) The center shall offer instruction in all of the	52
<pre>following:</pre>	53
(a) The books and major debates which form the	54
intellectual foundation of free societies, especially that of	55
the United States;	56
(b) The principles, ideals, and institutions of the	57
American constitutional order;	58
(c) The foundations of responsible leadership and informed	59
citizenship.	60
(2) The center also shall focus on both of the following:	61
(a) Offering university-wide programming related to the	62
values of free speech and civil discourse;	63
(b) Expanding the intellectual diversity of the	64
university's academic community.	65
(D)(1) Not later than November 20, 2023, the board of	66
trustees of the university shall appoint, with the advice and	67
consent of the senate, a seven-member Chase center academic	68
council. An initial member shall not begin service until	69
confirmed by the senate. Four members shall form a quorum.	70
(2) The academic council shall be comprised of scholars	71
with relevant expertise and experience. Not more than one member	72
of the council may be an employee of the university. Best	73
efforts shall be made to have not fewer than three members of	74

the advisory board be from Ohio.	75
(3) Three members of the academic council shall serve	76
initial terms of two years and four members shall serve initial	77
terms of four years, which the members shall determine at their	78
first meeting, and select replacements for vacant seats.	79
(E) (1) The academic council established under division (D)	80
of this section shall conduct a nationwide search for candidates	81
for the director of the center and shall strictly adhere to all	82
relevant state and federal laws. The academic council shall	83
submit to the president of the university a list of finalists	84
from which the president shall select and appoint a director,	85
subject to approval by the board of trustees. Future directors	86
shall be chosen in the same manner.	87
(2) The director shall have the protection of tenure or	88
tenure eligibility. The director shall consult with the dean of	89
the college of public affairs; however, the director shall	90
report directly to the provost or the president of the	91
university.	92
(3) The director shall have the sole and exclusive	93
authority to manage the recruitment and hiring process and to	94
extend offers for employment for all faculty and staff, and to	95
terminate employment of all staff. The director shall oversee,	96
develop, and approve the center's curriculum. The center shall	97
be granted the authority to offer courses and develop	98
certificate, minor, and major programs as well as graduate	99
programs, and offer degrees.	100
(F) The director of the center shall submit an annual	101
report to the board of trustees of the university and the	102
general assembly in accordance with section 101.68 of the	103

Revised Code. The report shall provide a full account of the	104
center's achievements, opportunities, challenges, and obstacles	105
in the development of this academic unit.	106
Sec. 3339.06. (A) (1) The Miami university center for	107
civics, culture, and society is established as an independent	108
academic unit within Miami university, physically located in the	109
college of arts and sciences. The center shall conduct teaching	110
and research in the historical ideas, traditions, and texts that	111
have shaped the American constitutional order and society.	112
(2) The center shall establish bylaws requiring the center	113
to do all of the following:	114
(a) Educate students by means of free, open, and rigorous	115
intellectual inquiry to seek the truth;	116
(b) Affirm its duty to equip students with the skills,	117
habits, and dispositions of mind they need to reach their own	118
informed conclusions on matters of social and political	119
<pre>importance;</pre>	120
(c) Affirm the value of intellectual diversity in higher	121
education and aspire to enhance the intellectual diversity of	122
the university;	123
(d) Affirm a commitment to create a community dedicated to	124
an ethic of civil and free inquiry, which respects the	125
intellectual freedom of each member, supports individual	126
capacities for growth, and welcomes the differences of opinion	127
that shall naturally exist in a public university community.	128
The requirements prescribed under divisions (A)(2)(a) to	129
(d) of this section shall take priority over any other bylaws	130
adopted by the center	131

consent of the senate, a seven-member center academic council.	160
An initial member shall not begin service until confirmed by the	161
senate. Four members shall form a quorum.	162
(2) The academic council shall be comprised of scholars	163
with relevant expertise and experience. Not more than one member	164
of the council may be an employee of the university. Best	165
efforts shall be made to have not fewer than three members of	166
the advisory board be from Ohio.	167
(3) Three members of the academic council shall serve	168
initial terms of two years and four members shall serve initial	169
terms of four years, which the members shall determine at their	170
first meeting, and select replacements for vacant seats.	171
(E) (1) The academic council established under division (D)	172
of this section shall conduct a nationwide search for candidates	173
for the director of the center and shall strictly adhere to all	174
relevant state and federal laws. The academic council shall	175
submit to the president of the university a list of finalists	176
from which the president shall select and appoint a director,	177
subject to approval by the board of trustees. Future directors	178
shall be chosen in the same manner.	179
(2) The director shall have the protection of tenure or	180
tenure eligibility. The director shall consult with the dean of	181
the college of arts and sciences; however, the director shall	182
report directly to the provost or the president of the	183
university.	184
(3) The director shall have the sole and exclusive	185
authority to manage the recruitment and hiring process and to	186
extend offers for employment for all faculty and staff of the	187
center, and to terminate employment of all staff. The director	188

shall oversee, develop, and approve the center's curriculum. The	189
center shall be granted the authority to offer courses and	190
develop certificate, minor, and major programs as well as	191
graduate programs, and offer degrees.	192
(F) The director of the center shall submit an annual	193
report to the board of trustees of the university and the	194
general assembly in accordance with section 101.68 of the	195
Revised Code. The report shall provide a full account of the	196
center's achievements, opportunities, challenges, and obstacles	197
in the development of this academic unit.	198
Sec. 3344.07. (A) (1) The Cleveland state university center	199
for civics, culture, and society is established as an	200
independent academic unit within Cleveland state university,	201
physically located in the Levin college of public affairs and	202
education. The center shall conduct teaching and research in the	203
historical ideas, traditions, and texts that have shaped the	204
American constitutional order and society.	205
(2) The center shall establish bylaws requiring the center	206
to do all of the following:	207
(a) Educate students by means of free, open, and rigorous	208
intellectual inquiry to seek the truth;	209
(b) Affirm its duty to equip students with the skills,	210
habits, and dispositions of mind they need to reach their own	211
informed conclusions on matters of social and political	212
<pre>importance;</pre>	213
(c) Affirm the value of intellectual diversity in higher	214
education and aspire to enhance the intellectual diversity of	215
the university;	216
(d) Affirm a commitment to create a community dedicated to	217

an ethic of civil and free inquiry, which respects the	218
intellectual freedom of each member, supports individual	219
capacities for growth, and welcomes the differences of opinion	220
that shall naturally exist in a public university community.	221
The requirements prescribed under divisions (A)(2)(a) to	222
(d) of this section shall take priority over any other bylaws	223
adopted by the center.	224
(3) The board of trustees of the university may name the	225
center in accordance with the philanthropic naming policies and	226
practices of the university.	227
(B) The center shall be an independent academic unit	228
physically located at the college of public affairs and	229
education with the authority to house tenure-track faculty who	230
hold their appointments within the center. Faculty appointed to	231
the center shall not be required, but may, hold joint	232
appointments within any other division of the university. Not	233
fewer than ten tenure-track faculty positions shall be allotted	234
to teach under the center. No faculty outside of the center	235
shall have the authority to block faculty hires into the center.	236
(C)(1) The center shall offer instruction in all of the	237
<pre>following:</pre>	238
(a) The books and major debates which form the	239
intellectual foundation of free societies, especially that of	240
the United States;	241
(b) The principles, ideals, and institutions of the	242
American constitutional order;	243
(c) The foundations of responsible leadership and informed	244
citizenship.	245

(2) The center also shall focus on both of the following:	246
(a) Offering university-wide programming related to the	247
values of free speech and civil discourse;	248
(b) Expanding the intellectual diversity of the	249
university's academic community.	250
(D)(1) Not later than December 31, 2023, the board of	251
trustees of the university shall appoint, with the advice and	252
consent of the senate, a seven-member center academic council.	253
An initial member shall not begin service until confirmed by the	254
senate. Four members shall form a quorum.	255
(2) The academic council shall be comprised of scholars	256
with relevant expertise and experience. Not more than one member	257
of the council may be an employee of the university. Best	258
efforts shall be made to have not fewer than three members of	259
the advisory board be from Ohio.	260
(3) Three members of the academic council shall serve	261
initial terms of two years and four members shall serve initial	262
terms of four years, which the members shall determine at their	263
first meeting, and select replacements for vacant seats.	264
(E) (1) The academic council established under division (D)	265
of this section shall conduct a nationwide search for candidates	266
for the director of the center and shall strictly adhere to all	267
relevant state and federal laws. The academic council shall	268
submit to the president of the university a list of finalists	269
from which the president shall select and appoint a director,	270
subject to approval by the board of trustees. Future directors	271
shall be chosen in the same manner.	272
(2) The director shall have the protection of tenure or	273
tenure eligibility. The director shall consult with the dean of	274

the college of public affairs and education; however, the	275
director shall report directly to the provost or the president	276
of the university.	277
(3) The director shall have the sole and exclusive	278
authority to manage the recruitment and hiring process and to	279
extend offers for employment for all faculty and staff of the	280
center, and to terminate employment of all staff. The director	281
shall oversee, develop, and approve the center's curriculum. The	282
center shall be granted the authority to offer courses and	283
develop certificate, minor, and major programs as well as	284
graduate programs, and offer degrees.	285
(F) The director of the center shall submit an annual	286
report to the board of trustees of the university and the	287
general assembly in accordance with section 101.68 of the	288
Revised Code. The report shall provide a full account of the	289
center's achievements, opportunities, challenges, and obstacles	290
in the development of this academic unit.	291
Sec. 3361.06. (A) (1) The university of Cincinnati center	292
for civics, culture, and society is established as an	293
independent academic unit within the university of Cincinnati,	294
physically located in the college of arts and sciences. The	295
center shall conduct teaching and research in the historical	296
ideas, traditions, and texts that have shaped the American	297
constitutional order and society.	298
(2) The center shall establish bylaws requiring the center	299
to do all of the following:	300
(a) Educate students by means of free, open, and rigorous	301
<pre>intellectual inquiry to seek the truth;</pre>	302
(b) Affirm its duty to equip students with the skills.	303

habits, and dispositions of mind they need to reach their own	304
informed conclusions on matters of social and political	305
<pre>importance;</pre>	306
(c) Affirm the value of intellectual diversity in higher	307
education and aspire to enhance the intellectual diversity of	308
the university;	309
(d) Affirm a commitment to create a community dedicated to	310
an ethic of civil and free inquiry, which respects the	311
intellectual freedom of each member, supports individual	312
capacities for growth, and welcomes the differences of opinion	313
that shall naturally exist in a public university community.	314
The requirements prescribed under divisions (A)(2)(a) to	315
(d) of this section shall take priority over any other bylaws	316
adopted by the center.	317
(3) The board of trustees of the university may name the	318
center in accordance with the philanthropic naming policies and	319
practices of the university.	320
(B) The center shall be an independent academic unit	321
physically located at the college of arts and sciences with the	322
authority to house tenure-track faculty who hold their	323
appointments within the center. Faculty appointed to the center	324
shall not be required, but may, hold joint appointments within	325
any other division of the university. Not fewer than ten tenure-	326
track faculty positions shall be allotted to teach under the	327
center. No faculty outside of the center shall have the	328
authority to block faculty hires into the center.	329
(C) (1) The center shall offer instruction in all of the	330
<pre>following:</pre>	331
(a) The books and major debates which form the	332

intellectual foundation of free societies, especially that of	333
<pre>the United States;</pre>	334
(b) The principles, ideals, and institutions of the	335
American constitutional order;	336
(c) The foundations of responsible leadership and informed	337
citizenship.	338
(2) The center also shall focus on both of the following:	339
(a) Offering university-wide programming related to the	340
values of free speech and civil discourse;	341
(b) Expanding the intellectual diversity of the	342
university's academic community.	343
(D)(1) Not later than December 31, 2023, the board of	344
trustees of the university shall appoint, with the advice and	345
consent of the senate, a seven-member center academic council.	346
An initial member shall not begin service until confirmed by the	347
senate. Four members shall form a quorum.	348
(2) The academic council shall be comprised of scholars	349
with relevant expertise and experience. Not more than one member	350
of the council may be an employee of the university. Best	351
efforts shall be made to have not fewer than three members of	352
the advisory board be from Ohio.	353
(3) Three members of the academic council shall serve	354
initial terms of two years and four members shall serve initial	355
terms of four years, which the members shall determine at their	356
first meeting, and select replacements for vacant seats.	357
(E) (1) The academic council established under division (D)	358
of this section shall conduct a nationwide search for candidates	359
for the director of the center and shall strictly adhere to all	360

relevant state and federal laws. The academic council shall	361
submit to the president of the university a list of finalists	362
from which the president shall select and appoint a director,	363
subject to approval by the board of trustees. Future directors	364
shall be chosen in the same manner.	365
(2) The director shall have the protection of tenure or	366
tenure eligibility. The director shall consult with the dean of	367
the college of arts and sciences; however, the director shall	368
report directly to the provost or the president of the	369
university.	370
(3) The director shall have the sole and exclusive	371
authority to manage the recruitment and hiring process and to	372
extend offers for employment for all faculty and staff of the	373
center, and to terminate employment of all staff. The director	374
shall oversee, develop, and approve the center's curriculum. The	375
center shall be granted the authority to offer courses and	376
develop certificate, minor, and major programs as well as	377
graduate programs, and offer degrees.	378
(F) The director of the center shall submit an annual	379
report to the board of trustees of the university and the	380
general assembly in accordance with section 101.68 of the	381
Revised Code. The report shall provide a full account of the	382
center's achievements, opportunities, challenges, and obstacles	383
in the development of this academic unit.	384
Sec. 3364.07. (A) The institute of American constitutional	385
thought and leadership is established for the purpose of	386
creating and disseminating knowledge about American	387
constitutional thought and to form future leaders of the legal	388
profession through research, scholarship, teaching,	389
collaboration, and mentorship. The institute shall be an	390

independent academic unit within the university of Toledo,	391
physically located at the college of law. The university shall	392
require the college of law to provide adequate administrative	393
space for the institute.	394
(B) The institute shall pursue all of the following goals:	395
(1) To enrich the curriculum in American constitutional	396
studies, including the core texts and great debates of western	397
civilization;	398
(2) To educate university students in the principles,	399
ideals, and institutions of the American and Ohio constitutional	400
order;	401
(3) To educate university students in the foundations of	402
responsible leadership and informed citizenship and to cultivate	403
the next generation of leaders in the legal profession;	404
(4) To offer university-wide programming related to the	405
values of open inquiry and civil discourse;	406
(5) To expand the intellectual diversity of the	407
university's academic community and to create a rich forum for	408
the development of ideas across the political and ideological	409
<pre>spectrum;</pre>	410
(6) To support faculty and graduate student scholarship	411
that advances understanding of American constitutional thought	412
and institutions;	413
(7) To promote scholarly collaboration within the	414
university and beyond;	415
(8) To host lectures, debates, and symposia, and sponsor	416
visiting scholars, jurists, and teachers.	417

(C) The institute shall adhere to the following policies:	418
(1) The institute shall educate students by means of free,	419
open, and rigorous intellectual inquiry to seek the truth.	420
(2) The institute shall equip students with the skills,	421
habits, and dispositions of mind they need to reach their own	422
informed conclusions on matters of legal, social, and political	423
importance.	424
(3) The institute shall value intellectual diversity in	425
higher education, including in faculty recruitment, hiring, and	426
appointment, and aspire to enhance the intellectual diversity of	427
academic life at the university.	428
(4) The institute shall create a community dedicated to an	429
ethic of civil and free inquiry, which respects the intellectual	430
freedom of each member, supports individual capacities for	431
growth, and welcomes the differences of opinion that naturally	432
occur in a public university community.	433
(D)(1) Not later than sixty days after the effective date	434
of this section, the talent, compensation, and governance	435
committee of the board of trustees of the university, if such a	436
committee exists, shall appoint, with the advice and consent of	437
the senate, a seven-member institute academic council. If no	438
such committee exists, the board of trustees shall appoint	439
members under this division. An initial member shall not begin	440
service until confirmed by the senate. Four members shall form a	441
quorum.	442
(2) The academic council shall be comprised of scholars	443
with relevant expertise and experience. Not more than one member	444
of the council may be an employee of the university. Best	445
efforts shall be made to have not fewer than three members of	446

the council be from Ohio.	447
(3) Three members of the academic council shall serve	448
initial terms of two years and four members shall serve initial	449
terms of four years, which the members shall determine at their	450
first meeting, and select replacements for vacant seats.	451
(4) To fill a vacancy for the institute director after the	452
initial director, following a national search, the academic	453
council shall transmit to the president a list of finalists from	454
which the president shall select a director, subject to the	455
approval of the talent, compensation, and governance committee	456
of the board of trustees.	457
(E) (1) The institute shall be led by a director who shall	458
report directly to the president and provost of the university	459
and consult with the dean of the college of law. The president	460
of the university shall appoint an initial director not later	461
than thirty days after the effective date of this section. The	462
director shall be an expert of the western tradition, the	463
American founding, and American constitutional thought, and	464
shall have shown a commitment to the purposes, goals, and	465
policies of the institute. The director's term shall be for five	466
<pre>years and shall be renewable.</pre>	467
(2) The director shall have the protection of tenure or	468
tenure eligibility. Any existing tenure with the university held	469
by a director shall be maintained with the university.	470
(F) The institute shall be an independent academic unit of	471
the university with the authority to house tenure-track faculty	472
who hold their appointments within the institute. Not fewer than	473
five tenure-track faculty positions shall be allotted to the	474
institute Faculty appointed within the institute shall not be	175

required, but may be permitted, to hold joint or courtesy	476
appointments within any other division of the university. No	477
faculty from outside the institute shall have the authority to	478
block faculty hires into the institute.	479
(G) (1) The director shall have the sole and exclusive	480
authority to manage the recruitment and hiring process and the	481
authority to extend offers for employment for all faculty and	482
staff, and to terminate employment of all staff. The director	483
7 - 3	484
shall oversee, develop, and approve the institute's curriculum.	
The institute shall be granted the authority to offer courses	485
and develop certificate, minor, major, and graduate programs,	486
and offer degrees.	487
(2) Employment contracts offered under division (G)(1) of	488
this section to tenure-track faculty appointed to the institute	489
shall guarantee reappointment elsewhere in the university, at	490
the same rank and compensation, in the event the institute is	491
discontinued.	492
(H) The director of the institute shall submit an annual	493
report to the board of trustees of the university and the	494
general assembly in accordance with section 101.68 of the	495
Revised Code. The report shall provide a full account of the	496
institute's achievements, opportunities, challenges, and	497
obstacles in the development of this academic unit.	498
(I) The board of trustees of the university may change the	499
name of the institute in accordance with the philanthropic	500
naming policies and practices of the university.	501
Section 2. All items in this act are hereby appropriated	502
as designated out of any moneys in the state treasury to the	503
credit of the designated fund. For all operating appropriations	504

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of the 135th General Assembly.

545

Project Support, \$2,000,000 in each fiscal year shall be	523
distributed to Cleveland State University to support the center	524
for civics, culture, and society established under section	525
3344.07 of the Revised Code.	526
Of the foregoing appropriation item 235533, Program and	527
Project Support, \$2,000,000 in each fiscal year shall be	528
distributed to the University of Cincinnati to support the	529
center for civics, culture, and society established under	530
section 3361.06 of the Revised Code.	531
Of the foregoing appropriation item 235533, Program and	532
Project Support, \$1,000,000 in each fiscal year shall be	533
distributed to the University of Toledo to support the Institute	534
of American Constitutional Thought and Leadership established	535
under section 3364.07 of the Revised Code.	536
Section 4. Within the limits set forth in this act, the	537
Director of Budget and Management shall establish accounts	538
indicating the source and amount of funds for each appropriation	539
made in this act, and shall determine the manner in which	540
appropriation accounts shall be maintained. Expenditures from	541
operating appropriations contained in this act shall be	542
accounted for as though made in, and are subject to all	543
applicable provisions of, the main operating appropriations act	544