



Widener Cosponsors Legislation to Reduce Size of State Government, Save Taxpayer Millions

Adopts recommendations of Sunset Review Committee to eliminate 85 state boards and commissions

COLUMBUS—State Senator Chris Widener (R-Springfield) today cosponsored and voted favorably to pass legislation that would adopt recommendations from the bipartisan Sunset Review Committee. Substitute Senate Bill 171 will abolish or consolidate 85 state boards and commissions in an effort to reduce the size of state government and save Ohioans more than \$6.7 million over the next five years.

“When the state is facing an unprecedented budget deficit, it is prudent for the legislature to be sure that taxpayer dollars are being used to their maximum efficiency,” said Widener. “This legislation will enact recommendations meant to relieve the state of duplicative, underutilized and unnecessary services.”

The Sunset Review Committee, which includes three members each from the House and Senate, and three members appointed by the Governor, is tasked by law every five years with evaluating numerous state agencies, boards and commissions to determine if they should be continued or abolished. The nine-member panel met 18 times between November 2009 and May 2010 to review the budgets and operations of 276 state entities.

Each agency, board and commission that is up for review must submit a report to the committee explaining its primary purpose, goals and objectives; past and anticipated budgets and source of funding; past and anticipated workload, including the number of staff required to complete that work; the number of members on the agency’s governing board and their compensation, if any.

The measure passed a full vote of the Ohio Senate unanimously. The legislation now moves to the Ohio House of Representatives for deliberation.

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Senator Chris Widener serves the people of the 10th Senate District, which includes Clark, Greene and Madison counties. He is chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and a member of the Senate Ways & Means & Economic Development, Government Oversight & Reform, and Rules & Reference committees.