



Senator Shannon Jones
7th Ohio Senate District

GUEST COLUMN

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**APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR
LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

Provides interested students with a unique opportunity to learn more about state government

Students and other visitors to the Ohio Statehouse often have the opportunity to observe members of the Senate and House in committee or on the floor of our respective chambers. While the work involved in our debating and voting on bills may seem fairly straightforward to most people, the truth is that none of it would be possible without the people at the Legislative Service Commission (LSC).

LSC provides technical and research services to lawmakers and staff at the Statehouse, including drafting and analyzing bills and amendments and providing estimates of state revenue and expenditures. When you take into account that legislators consider hundreds of pieces of legislation during the course of a two-year General Assembly, the work performed by LSC staff becomes truly impressive.

Besides their legislative work, LSC has also sponsored a paid internship program for the past 40 years that provides recent college graduates interested in government and politics with first-hand experience in the legislative process. Last year, the program was renamed the LSC Legislative *Fellowship* Program to more accurately reflect the educational and professional goals of the program.

Twenty-four individuals are selected each year for the Fellowship Program. The majority are assigned to the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate, where they may work in an individual member's office or for an entire caucus. Here in the Senate, fellows perform a wide range of activities – assisting with administrative duties and constituent inquiries, attending meetings, writing speeches and press releases and researching legislative issues. They also monitor committee hearings and floor sessions in order to gain more insight into the legislative process.

Other interns work directly with LSC staff in drafting legislation and performing research, while two interns with telecommunication backgrounds are assigned to Ohio Government Telecommunications, which televises legislative sessions and produces other government and educational programming. The skills and relationships fellows gain during the program will

benefit them throughout their professional lives, whether they continue to work in government or pursue a career in another field.

The LSC Fellowship program begins the first week in December and ends December 31st of the following year. Applicants do not need to have political experience and the only eligibility requirement is that a fellow must have graduated from a four-year college degree program by the start of the program. You do not need to have majored in political science or a government-related field – students of all majors are encouraged to apply to the Fellowship Program.

Applications for the legislative fellowship program are due by April 1 and the deadline to apply for a telecommunications fellowship is May 31. For more information about the program or to download an application, please visit LSC's Web site at www.lsc.state.oh.us/fellowship. You can also write to Ohio Legislative Service Commission, Fellowship Program Coordinators, 77 South High Street, 9th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have questions or concerns about any state-related matter. You can reach my office by phone at (614) 466-9737, by e-mail at SD07@senate.state.oh.us or by writing State Senator Shannon Jones, Ohio Statehouse, 1 Capitol Square, Columbus, OH 43215. I look forward to hearing from you.