

Ohio Sunset Review Committee  
Monday, December 7, 2015  
Statehouse, Room 313

Industrial Commission Nominating Council

Good afternoon, Chairman Brown and members of The Sunset Review Committee, my name is Tim Adams, and I am Executive Director and Chief Administrative Officer for the Industrial Commission of Ohio. Thank you for the opportunity to speak about the Industrial Commission Nominating Council and the important role this council has within the worker's compensation system.

The Industrial Commission Nominating Council, or ICNC, was created pursuant to ORC 4121.04, and is charged with two objectives:

First, the ICNC reviews candidates for vacancies on the three-member Industrial Commission, and submits three qualified candidates to the Governor, for selection, pursuant to ORC 4121.02 (D). This task is conducted every two years. Second, the ICNC appoints a Chief Ombudsman Officer for a six year term, and meets annually to review the activities of the Ombudsman Office, pursuant to ORC 4121.45 (A).

Furthermore, the ICNC has a very small financial footprint, averaging less than \$1,000.00, for each of the last five fiscal years and does not have any dedicated staff to complete the above described workload. Rather, any limited administrative functions to support the ICNC are provided by Workers' Compensation Ombudsman Office personnel, which are normally limited to just a few hours a year. This operating environment is expected to remain consistent

for the next five fiscal years and beyond. The ICNC's budget is paid out of the Industrial Commission operating account, pursuant to ORC 4121.04 (D).

Recent legislation increased membership of the Industrial Commission Nominating Council from ten up to twelve members, adding a representative from small business and a representative from the injured worker attorney community. Pursuant to ORC 4121.04 (D), members of the ICNC are paid \$50.00 per meeting and reimbursed for their actual and necessary travel expenses. These two expenses represent the only budget costs of the ICNC.

The ICNC accomplishes two key statutorily mandated functions; first, providing a pool of qualified candidates to serve on the Ohio Industrial Commission, (ORC 4121.02) and second, ensuring that the Workers' Compensation Ombudsman Office provides support and guidance to Ohio's injured workers and employers, (ORC 4121.45). Both of these important tasks are done effectively by the ICNC, with no paid staff, and for less than \$1,000.00 total cost per year.

For the reasons of operational efficiency, it is our recommendation that the Industrial Commission Nominating Council continue in its current form and operational structure. Chairman Brown and members of the committee, I thank you for your time and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.