

Ohio Department of Administrative Services
OBG Steering Committee
Sunset Review Committee
February 25, 2020

Good afternoon Chairman Roegner and members of the Sunset Review Committee. My name is Mariah Halleck, and I am the Legislative Liaison at the Department of Administrative Services.

I am pleased to appear before you today to testify in support of the Ohio Business Gateway (OBG) Steering Committee. The mission of the Ohio Business Gateway (OBG) is to make doing business in Ohio easy and efficient by providing eGovernment services that are simple and secure. OBG is a nationally recognized, collaborative initiative of state and local government agencies and an important part of Ohio's digital government strategy. Gateway services offer Ohio's businesses a time and money saving online filing and payment system that helps simplify businesses' relationships with government agencies.

The purpose of the OBG Steering Committee is to direct the continuing development of the Ohio business gateway and to oversee its operations. The committee provides general oversight regarding the operation of OBG, as well as recommends enhancements that will improve the OBG system. The committee looks at all banking, technological, administrative, and other issues associated with OBG and makes recommendations regarding the type of reporting forms or other tax documents to be filed through the OBG platform.

The OBG Steering Committee currently has no staff but may hire professional, technical, and clerical staff needed to support its activities. Further, the OBG Steering Committee itself has no budget. However, for FY2020 and FY2021, the Ohio Business Gateway received a general revenue appropriation of \$15,452,605 and \$14,475,507.68, respectively.

Per Ohio Revised Code 5703.57, the OBG Steering Committee shall consist of up to fourteen (14) members who are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, as well as ex officio members. Committee members appointed by the Governor include up to four representatives from the business community, up to one representative of municipal tax administrators, up to two tax practitioners. Ex officio members include the secretary of state, treasurer of state, office of budget and management, state chief information officer, tax commissioner, development services agency, as well as the office of the governor.

Chairman Roegner and members of the Sunset Review Committee, thank you for your time. DAS supports the continuation of the OBG Steering Committee and the importance it has to the entire Ohio Business Gateway system. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.