



Ohio Revised Code

Section 149.30 Public functions of Ohio history connection.

Effective: September 30, 2025

Legislation: House Bill 96

The Ohio history connection, chartered by this state as a corporation not for profit to promote a knowledge of history and archaeology, especially of Ohio, and operated continuously in the public interest since 1885, may perform public functions as prescribed by law.

The general assembly may appropriate money to the Ohio history connection each biennium to carry out the public functions of the Ohio history connection as enumerated in this section. An appropriation by the general assembly to the Ohio history connection constitutes an offer to contract with the Ohio history connection to carry out those public functions for which appropriations are made. An acceptance by the Ohio history connection of the appropriated funds constitutes an acceptance by the Ohio history connection of the offer and is considered an agreement by the Ohio history connection to perform those functions in accordance with the terms of the appropriation and the law and to expend the funds only for the purposes for which appropriated. The governor may request on behalf of the Ohio history connection, and the controlling board may release, additional funds to the Ohio history connection for survey, salvage, repair, or rehabilitation of an emergency nature for which funds have not been appropriated, and acceptance by the Ohio history connection of those funds constitutes an agreement on the part of the Ohio history connection to expend those funds only for the purpose for which released by the controlling board.

The Ohio history connection shall faithfully expend and apply all moneys received from the state to the uses and purposes directed by law and for necessary administrative expenses. If the general assembly appropriates money to the Ohio history connection for grants or subsidies to other entities for their site-related programs, the Ohio history connection, except for good cause, shall distribute the money within ninety days of accepting a grant or subsidy application for the money.

The Ohio history connection shall perform the public function of sending notice by ordinary or certified mail to the owner of any property at the time it is listed on the national register of historic places. The Ohio history connection shall accurately record all expenditures of such funds in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.



The auditor of state shall audit all funds and fiscal records of the Ohio history connection.

The public functions to be performed by the Ohio history connection shall include all of the following:

(A) Creating, supervising, operating, protecting, maintaining, and promoting for public use a system of state memorials, titles to which may reside wholly or in part with this state or wholly or in part with the Ohio history connection as provided in and in conformity to appropriate acts and resolves of the general assembly, and leasing for renewable periods of two years or less, with the advice and consent of the attorney general and the director of administrative services, lands and buildings owned by the state which are in the care, custody, and control of the Ohio history connection, all of which shall be maintained and kept for public use at reasonable hours;

(B) Making alterations and improvements, marking, and constructing, reconstructing, protecting, or restoring structures, earthworks, and monuments in its care, and equipping such facilities with appropriate educational maintenance facilities;

(C) Serving as the archives administration for the state and its political subdivisions as provided in sections 149.31 to 149.42 of the Revised Code;

(D) Administering a state historical museum, to be the headquarters of the society and its principal museum and library, which shall be maintained and kept for public use at reasonable hours;

(E) Establishing a marking system to identify all designated historic and archaeological sites within the state and marking or causing to be marked historic sites and communities considered by the society to be historically or archaeologically significant;

(F) Publishing books, pamphlets, periodicals, and other publications about history, archaeology, and natural science and offering one copy of each regular periodical issue to all public libraries in this state at a reasonable price, which shall not exceed one hundred ten per cent more than the total cost of publication;



(G) Engaging in research in history, archaeology, and natural science and providing historical information upon request to all state agencies;

(H) Collecting, preserving, and making available by all appropriate means and under approved safeguards all manuscript, print, or near-print library collections and all historical objects, specimens, and artifacts which pertain to the history of Ohio and its people, including the following original documents: Ohio Constitution of 1802; Ohio Constitution of 1851; proposed Ohio Constitution of 1875; design and the letters of patent and assignment of patent for the state flag; S.J.R. 13 (1873); S.J.R. 53 (1875); S.J.R. 72 (1875); S.J.R. 50 (1883); H.J.R. 73 (1883); S.J.R. 28 (1885); H.J.R. 67 (1885); S.J.R. 17 (1902); S.J.R. 28 (1902); H.J.R. 39 (1902); S.J.R. 23 (1903); H.J.R. 19 (1904); S.J.R. 16 (1905); H.J.R. 41 (1913); H.J.R. 34 (1917); petition form (2) (1918); S.J.R. 6 (1921); H.J.R. 5 (1923); H.J.R. 40 (1923); H.J.R. 8 (1929); H.J.R. 20 (1929); S.J.R. 4 (1933); petition form (2) (1933); S.J.R. 57 (1936); petition form (1936); H.J.R. 14 (1942); H.J.R. 15 (1944); H.J.R. 8 (1944); S.J.R. 6 (1947); petition form (1947); H.J.R. 24 (1947); and H.J.R. 48 (1947);

(I) Encouraging and promoting the organization and development of county and local historical societies;

(J) Providing to Ohio schools such materials as the Ohio history connection may prepare to facilitate the instruction of Ohio history at a reasonable price, which shall not exceed one hundred ten per cent more than the total cost of preparation and delivery;

(K) Providing advisory and technical assistance to local societies for the preservation and restoration of historic and archaeological sites;

(L) Devising uniform criteria for the designation of historic and archaeological sites throughout the state and advising local historical societies of the criteria and their application;

(M) Taking inventory, in cooperation with the Ohio arts council, the Ohio archaeological council, and the archaeological society of Ohio, of significant designated and undesignated state and local sites and keeping an active registry of all designated sites within the state;

(N) Contracting with the owners or persons having an interest in designated historic or



archaeological sites or property adjacent or contiguous to those sites, or acquiring, by purchase, gift, or devise, easements in those sites or in property adjacent or contiguous to those sites, in order to control or restrict the use of those historic or archaeological sites or adjacent or contiguous property for the purpose of restoring or preserving the historical or archaeological significance or educational value of those sites;

(O) Constructing a monument honoring Governor James A. Rhodes, which shall stand on the northeast quadrant of the grounds surrounding the capitol building. The monument shall be constructed with private funds donated to the Ohio history connection and designated for this purpose. No public funds shall be expended to construct this monument. The department of administrative services shall cooperate with the Ohio history connection in carrying out this function and shall maintain the monument in a manner compatible with the grounds of the capitol building.

(P) Commissioning a portrait of each departing governor, which shall be displayed in the capitol building. The Ohio history connection may accept private contributions designated for this purpose and, at the discretion of its board of trustees, also may apply for the same purpose funds appropriated by the general assembly to the Ohio history connection pursuant to this section.

(Q) Being the custodian of the field notes, maps, records, documents, papers, and implements relating to or used in the survey of the public lands within the state, which were delivered to the executive of this state by the surveyor of the United States at Detroit, by order of the government of the United States, the records of field notes and other records of papers that have been added thereto, the records of deeds and other records or papers relating to the public lands originally deposited with the governor or secretary of state, and the records, maps, plats, papers, documents, and implements relating to the public lands in the Virginia military district in this state, from the United States land office at Chillicothe. These records and files shall be subject to inspection, and the Ohio history connection, on demand and tender of the proper fees, shall furnish certified copies of any of them.

(R) Furnishing to the board of education of each school district copies of deeds, leases, field notes, records, and other papers and documents that are in the Ohio history connection's possession, relating to the lands appropriated by congress for the support of schools and ministerial purposes that have been allocated for the benefit of that district, and such copies, when certified by the Ohio history connection, shall be received as competent evidence and shall have the same force and effect



as the originals. The Ohio history connection shall charge fees sufficient to defray the cost of preparing copies.

(S) Submitting an annual report of its activities, programs, and operations to the governor within two months after the close of each fiscal year of the state.

The Ohio history connection, with the help of local historical societies, may compile and maintain a registry of war relics, as defined in section 155.28 of the Revised Code, that are located on public property or on the property of a cemetery association.

The Ohio history connection shall not sell, mortgage, transfer, or dispose of historical or archaeological sites to which it has title and in which the state has monetary interest except by action of the general assembly.

Money or fines paid to the Ohio history connection under section 155.99 of the Revised Code shall be expended by the Ohio history connection only for the preservation of war relics.

In consideration of the public functions performed by the Ohio history connection for the state, employees of the Ohio history connection shall be considered public employees within the meaning of section 145.01 of the Revised Code.