

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6029

BILL NUMBER: HB 1270

DATE PREPARED: Oct 28, 1998

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Natural, scenic, or recreational river designation.

FISCAL ANALYST: Brian Tabor

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FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill changes the procedure for the inclusion of rivers in the system of natural, scenic, and recreational rivers. It provides that a river section recommended by the director of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for inclusion in the system may not be included unless at least 500 residents of the county in which the river section is located sign a petition in support of the inclusion of the river. The legislative body of the county in which the river section is located would be required to hold a public hearing on the Department's proposal. This bill precludes the county legislative body from taking further action concerning the proposed inclusion of the river section unless it holds the public hearing. The bill also requires the county legislative body, not more than 60 days after the public hearing, to vote on whether to support or oppose the inclusion of the river section in the system. This bill provides that no further action may be taken toward inclusion if the county legislative body votes to oppose unless, not more than 60 days after the vote, a second petition supporting inclusion is signed by at least 10% of the residents of the county and presented to the county legislative body and the Natural Resources Commission.

Effective Date: July 1, 1999.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: This bill modifies the procedure by which local units approve or disapprove of the designation of a river (or a section of a river) in their jurisdiction as a natural, scenic, or recreational river. The bill provides that the legislative body of the county in which the river section is located must hold a public hearing on the proposed inclusion of the river section in the system. This provision may create some additional meeting expenses in counties where river sections are recommended for natural, scenic, or recreational designation after July 1, 1999. The total fiscal impact is not expected to be substantial.

As of October 26, 1998, only seven counties were already included in the natural, scenic, and recreational river system. The system includes parts of the Blue River in Crawford, Harrison and Washington counties; Cedar Creek in Allen and DeKalb counties; and Wildcat Creek in Carroll and Tippecanoe counties.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Natural Resources.

Local Agencies Affected: County governments.

Information Sources: Division of Outdoor Recreation, DNR.