

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

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7945

BILL NUMBER: SB 538

DATE PREPARED: Feb 9, 1999

BILL AMENDED: Feb 9, 1999

SUBJECT: Indiana Ethics Commission.

FISCAL ANALYST: Bernadette Bartlett

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FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: No Fiscal Impact

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill redefines the terms "employer" and "employee" as used in the state ethics statute. The State Ethics Commission has jurisdiction over certain individuals who are under contract or are employed by a person under a contract with a state agency. The Commission is authorized to dismiss a complaint if the Commission is satisfied that a governmental entity has dealt with the complaint appropriately.

Commission evidence relating to an investigation is confidential until certain events occur. (Current law provides that Commission records relating to a preliminary investigation are confidential until the stated events occur.) A Commission report may recommend that an appointing authority or a state officer issue a letter of counseling to a respondent to a complaint filed with the Commission. This bill makes changes to the information required to be stated on financial disclosure statements filed with the Commission.

A state officer or employee may not retaliate against a former employee because the former employee filed a complaint with, provided information to, or testified before the Commission. A person is prohibited from taking certain actions that would interfere with a Commission proceeding or investigation. This bill makes other changes in terminology in the state ethics statute.

Effective Date: July 1, 1999.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: All

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: David Maidenberg, Director, Ethics Commission, (317) 232-3850.