

First Regular Session 111th General Assembly (1999)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 1998 General Assembly.

HOUSE ENROLLED ACT No. 1024

AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning local government.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

SECTION 1. IC 31-11-6-1 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1999]: Sec. 1. Marriages may be solemnized by any of the following:

- (1) A member of the clergy of a religious organization (even if the cleric does not perform religious functions for an individual congregation), such as a minister of the gospel, a priest, a bishop, an archbishop, or a rabbi.
- (2) A judge.
- (3) A mayor, within the mayor's ~~city~~ **county**.
- (4) A clerk or a clerk-treasurer of a city or town, within a county in which the city or town is located.
- (5) A clerk of the circuit court.
- (6) The Friends Church, in accordance with the rules of the Friends Church.
- (7) The German Baptists, in accordance with the rules of their society.
- (8) The Bahai faith, in accordance with the rules of the Bahai faith.
- (9) The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, in accordance with the rules of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter

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(10) An imam of a masjid (mosque), in accordance with the rules of the religion of Islam.

SECTION 2. IC 36-4-10-5.5 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 5.5. (a) A clerk or clerk-treasurer may hire or contract with competent attorneys or legal research assistants on terms the clerk or clerk-treasurer considers appropriate.

(b) Employment of an attorney under this section does not affect a city department of law established under IC 36-4-9-4.

(c) Appropriations for the salaries of attorneys and legal research assistants employed under this section shall be approved in the annual budget **and must be allocated to the clerk or clerk-treasurer for the payment of attorney's and legal research assistant's salaries.**

SECTION 3. IC 36-5-2-8 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 8. (a) The town clerk-treasurer is the clerk of the legislative body.

(b) ~~Whenever the legislative body has an even number of members for any reason,~~ The clerk-treasurer is an ex officio member for the purpose of casting the deciding vote to break a tie.

SECTION 4. IC 36-5-2-13 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 13. The town executive must have the approval of a majority of the town council before the executive may discharge, reduce in grade under IC 36-8-3-4, or remove a town employee.**

SECTION 5. IC 36-8-3-4 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 4. (a) This section also applies to all towns and townships that have full-time, paid police or fire departments. For purposes of this section, the appropriate appointing authority of a town or township is considered the safety board of a town or township. In a town with a board of metropolitan police commissioners, that board is considered the safety board of the town for police department purposes.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (m), a member of the police or fire department holds office or grade until the member is dismissed or demoted by the safety board. Except as provided in subsection (n), a member may be disciplined by demotion, dismissal, reprimand, forfeiture, or suspension upon either:

- (1) conviction in any court of any crime; or
- (2) a finding and decision of the safety board that the member has been or is guilty of any one (1) or more of the following:

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- (A) Neglect of duty.
- (B) A violation of rules.
- (C) Neglect or disobedience of orders.
- (D) Incapacity.
- (E) Absence without leave.
- (F) Immoral conduct.
- (G) Conduct injurious to the public peace or welfare.
- (H) Conduct unbecoming an officer.
- (I) Another breach of discipline.

The safety board may not consider the political affiliation of the member in making a decision under this section. If a member is suspended or placed on administrative leave under this subsection, the member is entitled to the member's allowances for insurance benefits to which the member was entitled before being suspended or placed on administrative leave. In addition, the local unit may provide the member's allowances for any other fringe benefits to which the member was entitled before being suspended or placed on administrative leave.

(c) Before a member of a police or fire department may be suspended in excess of five (5) days without pay, demoted, or dismissed, the safety board shall offer the member an opportunity for a hearing. If a member desires a hearing, the member must request the hearing not more than five (5) days after the notice of the suspension, demotion, or dismissal. Written notice shall be given either by service upon the member in person or by a copy left at the member's last and usual place of residence at least fourteen (14) days before the date set for the hearing. The hearing conducted under this subsection shall be held not more than thirty (30) days after the hearing is requested by the member, unless a later date is mutually agreed upon by the parties. The notice must state:

- (1) the time and place of the hearing;
- (2) the charges against the member;
- (3) the specific conduct that comprises the charges;
- (4) that the member is entitled to be represented by counsel;
- (5) that the member is entitled to call and cross-examine witnesses;
- (6) that the member is entitled to require the production of evidence; and
- (7) that the member is entitled to have subpoenas issued, served, and executed in the county where the unit is located.

If the corporation counsel or city attorney is a member of the safety board of a city, the counsel or attorney may not participate as a safety board member in a disciplinary hearing concerning a member of either

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department. The safety board shall determine if a member of the police or fire department who is suspended in excess of five (5) days shall continue to receive the member's salary during the suspension.

(d) Upon an investigation into the conduct of a member of the police or fire department, or upon the trial of a charge preferred against a member of either department, the safety board may compel the attendance of witnesses, examine them under oath, and require the production of books, papers, and other evidence at a meeting of the board. For this purpose, the board may issue subpoenas and have them served and executed in any part of the county where the unit is located. If a witness refuses to testify or to produce books or papers in the witness's possession or under the witness's control, IC 36-4-6-21 controls to the extent applicable. The proper court may compel compliance with the order by attachment, commitment, or other punishment.

(e) The reasons for the suspension, demotion, or dismissal of a member of the police or fire department shall be entered as specific findings of fact upon the records of the safety board. A member who is suspended for a period exceeding five (5) days, demoted, or dismissed may appeal the decision to the circuit or superior court of the county in which the unit is located. However, a member may not appeal any other decision.

(f) An appeal under subsection (e) must be taken by filing in court, within thirty (30) days after the date the decision is rendered, a verified complaint stating in concise manner the general nature of the charges against the member, the decision of the safety board, and a demand for the relief asserted by the member. A bond must also be filed that guarantees the appeal will be prosecuted to a final determination and that the plaintiff will pay all costs adjudged against the plaintiff. The bond must be approved as bonds for costs are approved in other cases. The unit must be named as the sole defendant, and the plaintiff shall have a summons issued as in other cases against the unit. Neither the safety board nor the members of it may be made parties defendant to the complaint, but all are bound by service upon the unit and the judgment rendered by the court.

(g) In an appeal under subsection (e), no pleading is required by the unit to the complaint, but the allegations are considered denied. The unit may file a motion to dismiss the appeal for failure to perfect it within the time and in the manner required by this section. If more than one (1) person was included in the same charges and in the same decision of dismissal by the safety board, then one (1) or more of the persons may join as plaintiffs in the same complaint, but only the

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persons that appeal from the decision are affected by it. The decision of the safety board is final and conclusive upon all persons not appealing. The decision appealed from is not stayed or affected pending the final determination of the appeal, but remains in effect unless modified or reversed by the final judgment of the court.

(h) A decision of the safety board is considered prima facie correct, and the burden of proof is on the party appealing. All appeals shall be tried by the court. The appeal shall be heard de novo only upon any new issues related to the charges upon which the decision of the safety board was made. The charges are considered to be denied by the accused person. Within ten (10) days after the service of summons the safety board shall file in court a complete transcript of all papers, entries, and other parts of the record relating to the particular case. Inspection of these documents by the person affected, or by the person's agent, must be permitted by the safety board before the appeal is filed, if requested. Each party may produce evidence relevant to the issues that it desires, and the court shall review the record and decision of the safety board upon appeal.

(i) The court shall make specific findings and state the conclusions of law upon which its decision is made. If the court finds that the decision of the safety board appealed from should in all things be affirmed, its judgment should state that, and judgment for costs shall be rendered against the party appealing. If the court finds that the decision of the safety board appealed from should not be affirmed in all things, then the court shall make a general finding, setting out sufficient facts to show the nature of the proceeding and the court's decision on it. The court shall either:

- (1) reverse the decision of the safety board; or
- (2) order the decision of the safety board to be modified.

(j) The final judgment of the court may be appealed by either party. Upon the final disposition of the appeal by the courts, the clerk shall certify and file a copy of the final judgment of the court to the safety board, which shall conform its decisions and records to the order and judgment of the court. If the decision is reversed or modified, then the safety board shall pay to the party entitled to it any salary or wages withheld from the party pending the appeal and to which the party is entitled under the judgment of the court.

(k) Either party shall be allowed a change of venue from the court or a change of judge in the same manner as such changes are allowed in civil cases. The Indiana Rules of Trial Procedure govern in all matters of procedure upon the appeal that are not otherwise provided for by this section.

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(l) An appeal takes precedence over other pending litigation and shall be tried and determined by the court as soon as practical.

(m) **Except as provided in IC 36-5-2-13**, the executive may reduce in grade any member of the police or fire department who holds an upper level policy making position. The reduction in grade may be made without adhering to the requirements of subsections (b) through (l). However, a member may not be reduced in grade to a rank below that which the member held before the member's appointment to the upper level policy making position.

(n) If the member is subject to criminal charges, the board may place the member on administrative leave until the disposition of the criminal charges in the trial court. Any other action by the board is stayed until the disposition of the criminal charges in the trial court. An administrative leave under this subsection may be with or without pay, as determined by the board. If the member is placed on leave without pay, the board, in its discretion, may award back pay if the member is exonerated in the criminal matter.

SECTION 6. IC 36-9-23-6 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 6. (a) The board may enter into all contracts or agreements necessary or incidental to the performance of its duties and the execution of its powers under this chapter. However, the board may not obligate itself or the municipality beyond the extent to which money has been or may be provided under this chapter.

(b) A contract relating to the financing of the acquisition or construction of any sewage works, or to any trust indenture authorized by this chapter, is not effective until it is approved by the municipal legislative body.

(c) A contract or an agreement with any contractor or contractors for labor, equipment, or materials shall be let and entered into under the statutes governing the letting of contracts by agencies of municipalities. ~~including IC 5-17-1.~~

(d) The board or any public utility (as defined in IC 8-1-6-3) contracting with the board for the treatment, purification, or disposal in a sanitary manner of liquid and solid waste, sewage, night soil, or industrial waste may contract with a water utility furnishing water service to users or property served in the municipality or by the public utility to do the following:

- (1) Ascertain the amount of water consumed.
- (2) Compute the amount of the charge to be billed for sewer services to each user or property served.
- (3) Bill and collect the amounts due for sewer services.

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(4) Discontinue water service to delinquent sewer users.

A contract under this subsection is enforceable without the approval of the Indiana utility regulatory commission.

(e) The procedures in IC 36-9-25-11.5(a) through IC 36-9-25-11.5(e) apply to the discontinuance of water service to a delinquent sewer user under a contract between the board and a water utility described in subsection (d).

SECTION 7. An emergency is declared for this act.

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