

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

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6538

BILL NUMBER: HB 1076

DATE PREPARED: Nov 23, 1999

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Drainage boards and regulated drains.

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**FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires the Water Resources Study Committee to study the need for revisions in the law on regulated drains and, when the Committee considers it appropriate, prepare legislation to make revisions in the law. The Water Resources Study Committee is required to consider certain factors in studying the need for revisions in the law on regulated drains.

This bill requires a drainage board, in exercising its authority over regulated drains located within a county, to ensure that the best management practices set forth in the *Indiana Drainage Handbook* are implemented to the greatest possible extent.

Effective Date: July 1, 2000.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill expands the area of study of the Water Resources Study Committee. The Water Resources Study Committee is a permanent statutory committee (IC 2-5-25) with a budget determined by the Legislative Council, and staffed by the Legislative Services Agency. The expansion of the areas to be studied can be done within the existing allocation of funds for the Water Resources Study Committee.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: This bill requires a drainage board, in exercising its authority over regulated drains located within a county, to ensure that the best management practices set forth in the *Indiana Drainage Handbook* are implemented to the greatest possible extent. In 1997, the Legislative Services Agency conducted a program evaluation on issues relating to drainage. The survey concluded that 92% of the 48 responding county surveyors have used the best management practices identified in the *Indiana Drainage Handbook*. Many county drainage boards may currently require the use of the best management practices identified in the *Indiana Drainage Handbook*. However, this bill could impact the cost of a

regulated drain project if the county drainage board is not currently requiring the use of the best management practices identified in the *Indiana Drainage Handbook*.

Background Information: Senate Enrolled Act 303-1995 created a work group authorized to produce a manual of technical and administrative measures related to drainage projects. The work group produced the *Indiana Drainage Handbook: An Administrative and Technical Guide for Activities within Indiana Streams and Ditches*. The handbook contains sections addressing each regulatory agency's permitting program, required permits, and best management practices. The handbook was released in November 1996, and a copy was sent to each county surveyor.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Water Resources Study Committee.

Local Agencies Affected: County drainage board.

Information Sources: Kent Ward, Hamilton County Surveyor, (317) 776-8495. *Issues Relating to Drainage*, July 1997, Indiana Legislative Services Agency.