

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

301 State House  
(317) 232-9855

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7251**

**BILL NUMBER: HB 1248**

**DATE PREPARED:** Feb 29, 2000

**BILL AMENDED:** Feb 28, 2000

**SUBJECT:** Regional water and sewer districts.

**FISCAL ANALYST:** Bernadette Bartlett

**PHONE NUMBER:** 232-9586

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**  **GENERAL**  
**DEDICATED**  
**FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** (Amended) This bill makes various changes to the notice requirements for establishing a regional water, sewage, and solid waste district. The bill also provides that an appointed trustee of a regional water, sewage, and solid waste district serves at the pleasure of the appointing authority.

A district in Jennings County may not require a property owner that has a septic system and that is not connected to the district's sewer system on March 1, 2000, to connect to the system if the county commissioners adopt an ordinance before May 1, 2000, establishing procedures for (1) exemption from the connection requirement if the property owner has the septic system certified as functioning properly; (2) periodic review of the property owner's entitlement to exemption; and (3) notice to the district that the property owner is exempt or has lost an exemption previously applied.

**Effective Date:** (Amended) January 1, 1999 (Retroactive); Upon passage.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** (Revised) The Indiana Department of Environmental Management would absorb the costs of providing notice of the hearing in the newspaper and through the mail. This bill increases the number of times and number of papers in which a legal notice would have to be made. The bill also requires that the legal notice be 3-inch by 5-inch. It also increases the number of parties that are notified by certified mail and adds that each freeholder be notified by regular U.S. mail. These costs would vary depending on the charges of the newspaper for the 3-inch by 5-inch legal notice, the number that would receive a document by certified mail, and the number of freeholders that would receive notice via regular U.S. mail.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** (Revised) Changing notice requirements may result in a change in expenditures for local units. The overall impact, however, is indeterminable. Providing exemptions from sewer system hook ups in Jennings County could impact sewer districts. However, the specific impact is

indeterminable.

The amendment of 2/22/2000 will also affect one regional sewer district in Jennings County. This district has a current State Revolving Fund loan of \$5.8 M. The proposal could have an impact on the district's revenue stream to the extent that it could reduce the number of customers required to hook into the system and pay for the service. This reduction could reduce the district's ability to pay outstanding bond anticipation notes.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Indiana Department of Environmental Management

**Local Agencies Affected:** Jennings County.

**Information Sources:** Barbara Waxman, Northern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, Portage, 219-763-6060; State Budget Agency; Erika Seydel Cheney, Director of the Office of Business and Legislative Relations, IDEM (317) 232-8598; Wendy Hoffspiegel, Legislative Coordinator, IDEM (317) 233-3835.