

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

200 W. Washington, Suite 301  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(317) 233-0696  
<http://www.in.gov/legislative>

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6254**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1045

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 28, 2008

**BILL AMENDED:** Jan 24, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Courthouse Preservation Advisory Commission.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Bischoff

**FIRST SPONSOR:** Sen. Merritt

**BILL STATUS:** As Passed House

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

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill establishes the Courthouse Preservation Advisory Commission. It requires the commission to provide assistance for courthouse-related projects. It establishes the Courthouse Preservation Fund. It also requires the commission to submit a report to the Legislative Council. The bill makes conforming changes.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2008.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** (Revised) The commission consists of 18 members, including 5 state employees. Members are not entitled to per diem, but are entitled to reimbursement for traveling expenses and other expenses incurred in connection with the member's duties.

Upon request by county officials, the commission is required to travel to county courthouses to assess potential courthouse rehabilitation projects. The commission may also coordinate projects to encourage proper preservation practices; review and provide recommendations on architectural plans; and provide county officials with information concerning funding sources for courthouse preservation projects.

The commission must investigate the need, benefit, and importance of preserving courthouses; study the condition of courthouses; study the needs of county officials to assist in the restoration, rehabilitation, and maintenance of courthouses; and submit a report to the Legislative Council before August 1, 2011. (The last series of requirements expire on July 1, 2012.) The commission must meet at least four times a year.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) must provide staff and administrative support for the commission. Expenses incurred must be paid from funds appropriated to the DNR. The impact of these

provisions will depend on the distance that members must travel in order to attend meetings or visit courthouses, the number of meetings and visitations, and the number and nature of future courthouse rehabilitation projects.

For FY 2007, the DNR reverted almost \$1.3 M in state General Fund appropriations.

**Explanation of State Revenues:** The bill establishes the Courthouse Preservation Fund to provide grants for courthouse rehabilitation projects. The fund consists of appropriations, grants, gifts, and donations. The Treasurer of State must invest money in the fund not currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same manner as other public funds may be invested. Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not revert to the state General Fund.

The amount of revenue that will be generated for the fund is indeterminable.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** The bill could save money for counties if the use of the commission's expertise results in savings on courthouse preservation projects.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:** Counties may be eligible to access funds from the Courthouse Preservation Fund. The amount of revenue that will be granted to local units is indeterminable.

**State Agencies Affected:** DNR

**Local Agencies Affected:** Counties.

**Information Sources:**

**Fiscal Analyst:** Bernadette Bartlett, 317-232-9586.