

**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 7002

BILL NUMBER: SB 375

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 15, 2011

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Sustainable Natural Resource Task Force.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Boots

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: 2nd Reading - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill establishes the Sustainable Natural Resource Task Force to (1) collect programmatic and funding data on current natural resource protection programs in Indiana; (2) perform a needs assessment concerning natural resource programs; and (3) collect information concerning the natural resource protection programs of other states, including information about funding and funding mechanisms for those programs. The bill establishes reporting requirements. It provides that the task force expires May 1, 2013.

Effective Date: Upon passage.

Explanation of State Expenditures: Four legislators who serve on the task force are entitled to receive per diem, mileage, and travel allowances paid to legislative members of interim study committees. If the committee met 4 times, expenses for legislators are estimated at \$2,500 per year. These expenses must be paid from appropriations made to the Legislative Council. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) must provide administrative assistance to the task force. The DNR will be able to do so given its existing level of resources.

Background. In addition to the 4 legislators, the task force consists of 6 members representing the Indiana Farm Bureau; the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts; the Indiana Wildlife Federation; the Indiana Land Protection Alliance; the Indiana Forestry and Woodland Owners Association; and The Nature Conservancy. Members who are not legislators serve without compensation.

Beginning November 1, 2012, the task force, at the direction of the Legislative Council and the Natural

Resources Study Committee, must prepare a final report setting forth findings and recommendations.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) must provide administrative assistance to the task force. The task force must seek technical assistance from the DNR, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). The task force may seek assistance from public universities willing to provide research, scientific expertise, and policy analysis. These provisions are not expected to result in an increase in needed resources.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Legislative Council, DNR, IDOA, IDEM, and public universities.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: DNR.

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