

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

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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6778**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1465

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 23, 2022

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Threats Against Election Workers.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Johnson

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** ☒ **GENERAL**  
☒ **DEDICATED**  
☐ **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill provides that a person commits intimidation, a Level 5 felony, if the subject of the threat or the person to whom the threat is communicated is an election worker. It defines "election worker" for this purpose.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2023.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** A Level 5 felony is punishable by a prison term ranging from 1 to 6 years, with an advisory sentence of 3 years. The sentence depends on mitigating and aggravating circumstances. The average expenditure to house an adult offender was \$27,185 annually, or \$74.43 daily, in FY 2022. (This does not include the cost of new construction.) If offenders can be housed in existing facilities with no additional staff, the marginal cost for medical care, food, and clothing is approximately \$4,456 annually, or \$12.21 daily, per prisoner. These marginal cost estimates are based on contractual agreements with food and medical vendors and projections based on prior years for clothing and hygiene. The estimated average cost of housing a juvenile in a state juvenile facility was \$130,547, or \$357.42 daily, in FY 2022. The marginal cost for juvenile facilities was \$5,125 annually or \$14.04 daily

The entire Level 5 sentence may be suspended and the person placed on either probation or community corrections. If no time is suspended, the offender can receive good time credit of 25% and educational credit time. After adjusting for credit time, the offender can be released from prison and placed on parole.

**Explanation of State Revenues:** If additional court cases occur and fines are collected, revenue to both the Common School Fund and the state General Fund would increase. The maximum fine for a Level 5 felony is \$10,000. Criminal fines are deposited in the Common School Fund.

If the case is filed in a circuit or superior court, 70% of the \$120 criminal costs fee that is assessed and collected when a guilty verdict is entered would be deposited in the state General Fund. In addition, some or all of the following revenue is deposited into the state General Fund: automated record keeping fee (\$20), judicial salaries fee (\$20), public defense administration fee (\$5), court administration fee (\$5), judicial insurance adjustment fee (\$1), and the DNA sample processing fee (\$3).

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** If more defendants are detained in county jails prior to their court hearings, local expenditures for jail operations may increase. The average cost per day is approximately \$64.53 based on the per diem payments reported by U.S. Marshals to house federal prisoners in 11 county jails across Indiana during CY 2021.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:** If additional court actions occur and a guilty verdict is entered, local governments would receive revenue from the following sources. The county general fund would receive 27% of the \$120 criminal costs fee that is assessed in a court of record. Cities and towns maintaining a law enforcement agency that prosecutes at least 50% of its ordinance violations in a court of record may receive 3% of the criminal costs fee. Persons found guilty of a felony or misdemeanor are also required to pay the document storage fee (\$5), which is deposited into the clerk record perpetuation fund, and the jury fee (\$2) and the law enforcement continuing education fee (\$4), which are both deposited in the county user fee fund.

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Correction.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

**Information Sources:** Department of Correction, U.S. Department of Justice Marshals Service.

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