

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

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7360

BILL NUMBER: HB 1504

NOTE PREPARED: Apr 21, 2023

BILL AMENDED: Apr 6, 2023

SUBJECT: Enforcement of Deceptive Consumer Sales Act.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Speedy

FIRST SPONSOR: Sen. Messmer

BILL STATUS: Enrolled

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill provides that certain actions to remedy a deceptive act may not be brought more than five years after the deceptive act.

Effective Date: July 1, 2023.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The bill extends the time frame to bring certain actions to remedy a deceptive act from two years to five years after the deceptive act. This extension may increase workload and expenditures for the Attorney General (AG) to the extent that the AG pursues any additional cases. Any increases in workload and expenditures are expected to be offset by a successful recovery of reasonable costs.

Explanation of State Revenues: *Civil Filings by the Attorney General:* If the AG files a civil action against a nongovernmental party and prevails, court fees may be collected from the defendant [IC 33-37-3-1]. Additional court fees will increase revenue to the state General Fund. A civil costs fee of \$100 would be assessed when a civil case is filed, 70% of which would be deposited in the state General Fund if the case is filed in a court of record or 55% if the case is filed in a city or town court.

In addition, some or all of the judicial salaries fee (\$20), public defense administration fee (\$5), court administration fee (\$5), and the judicial insurance adjustment fee (\$1) are deposited into the state General Fund. Revenue from the pro bono services fee (\$1) is transferred by the State Auditor to the Indiana Bar Foundation for use to assist with pro bono legal services programs in Indiana, and proceeds from the automated record keeping fee (\$20) are deposited into the State User Fee Fund.

Additional fees may be collected at the discretion of the judge and depending upon the particular type of case.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues: *Court Fee Revenue:* If additional civil actions occur, local governments would receive revenue from the following sources. The county general fund would receive 27% of the \$100 civil 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 court fees. If the case is filed in a city or town court, 20% of the court fee would be deposited in the county general fund and 25% would be deposited in the city or town general fund. Additional fees may be collected at the discretion of the judge, depending upon the particular type of case.

Persons filing a civil case are also required to pay the following fees that are deposited in local funds.

The document storage fee (\$5) is deposited into the clerk record perpetuation fund.

The following fees are deposited into the general fund of the county in which the court is located:

- Document fees (\$1 per page) are charged for preparing transcripts or copies of record or certificate under seal.
- A civil garnishee defendant service fee (\$10) is collected from the filing party for each defendant beyond the first three garnishee defendants cited in the lawsuit.

State Agencies Affected: Attorney General.

Local Agencies Affected: Trial courts, city and town courts.

Information Sources:

Fiscal Analyst: Nate Bodnar, 317-234-9476.