

# HOUSE BILL No. 1101

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## DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 36-7-43.

**Synopsis:** Regional economic development. Requires the Indiana economic development corporation (IEDC) to designate 15 economic development regions throughout Indiana. Establishes a regional economic development commission (commission) for each economic development region. Provides for the membership of each commission. Requires each commission to establish or designate a primary administrative entity (entity) to carry out a strategic comprehensive economic development plan for the region. Sets forth the duties of a commission and entity.

**Effective:** July 1, 2026.

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**Heine, Snow, Lehman**

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January 5, 2026, read first time and referred to Committee on Ways and Means.

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Second Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2026)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

## HOUSE BILL No. 1101

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning economic development.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1 SECTION 1. IC 36-7-43 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS  
2 A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY  
3 1, 2026]:

4 **Chapter 43. Regional Economic Development Commissions**

5 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "applicable tax credit" has the**  
6 **meaning set forth in IC 5-28-2-1.5.**

7 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "commission" refers to a**  
8 **regional economic development commission established under**  
9 **section 9 of this chapter.**

10 **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "corporation" refers to the**  
11 **Indiana economic development corporation established by**  
12 **IC 5-28-3-1.**

13 **Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "development authority"**  
14 **includes:**

15 (1) **the northwest Indiana regional development authority**  
16 **established by IC 36-7.5-2-1;**

17 (2) **a regional development authority established under**



1 IC 36-7.6-2-3;

2 (3) a regional development authority established under  
3 IC 36-7.7-3-1;

4 (4) the northeast Indiana strategic development commission  
5 established by IC 36-7-39-3; and

6 (5) any other regional development authority established by  
7 statute.

8 Sec. 5. As used in this chapter, "economic development region"  
9 refers to an economic development region designated by the  
10 corporation under section 8 of this chapter.

11 Sec. 6. As used in this chapter, "governing body" refers to:

12 (1) in the case of the northwest Indiana regional development  
13 authority established by IC 36-7.5-2-1, the development board  
14 appointed under IC 36-7.5-2-3;

15 (2) in the case of a regional development authority established  
16 under IC 36-7.6-2-3, the development board appointed under  
17 IC 36-7.6-2-7;

18 (3) in the case of a regional development authority established  
19 under IC 36-7.7-3-1, the strategy committee described in  
20 IC 36-7.7-3-5;

21 (4) the northeast Indiana strategic development commission  
22 established by IC 36-7-39-3; and

23 (5) in the case of any other regional development authority  
24 established by statute, the governing body of that regional  
25 development authority.

26 Sec. 7. As used in this chapter, "primary administrative entity"  
27 refers to the primary administrative entity designated or  
28 established by a commission under section 14 of this chapter for an  
29 economic development region.

30 Sec. 8. (a) Not later than September 1, 2026, the corporation  
31 shall designate fifteen (15) distinct economic development regions  
32 throughout Indiana, each consisting of one (1) or more counties. A  
33 county may not be divided when establishing an economic  
34 development region.

35 (b) The corporation shall conduct periodic reviews of the  
36 economic development region boundaries to determine whether the  
37 boundaries of some or all of the economic development regions  
38 should be modified. The corporation may modify the boundaries  
39 of some or all of the economic development regions as determined  
40 necessary by the corporation.

41 Sec. 9. (a) A regional economic development commission is  
42 established for each economic development region.



(b) In an economic development region whose boundaries align with the boundaries of an existing development authority, the members of the governing body of the development authority serve as ex officio members of the commission.

(c) In an economic development region whose boundaries do not align with the boundaries of an existing development authority, the members of the commission consist of:

(1) one (1) individual appointed by the county executive of each county located within the economic development region; and

(2) one (1) individual appointed by the executive of each city with a population of at least five thousand (5,000) that is located within the economic development region.

(d) This subsection applies to members of a commission appointed under subsection (c). Upon the expiration of the term of an appointed member of the commission, the member's successor shall be appointed for a four (4) year term. A member may be reappointed. If a vacancy occurs among the appointed membership of the commission, the vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner and under the same conditions as the original appointment.

Sec. 10. (a) Each year, each commission shall elect the following from among the members of the commission:

(1) A chairperson.

(2) A vice chairperson.

(3) A treasurer.

(b) An individual elected as a chairperson or a vice chairperson:

(1) serves a term of one (1) year beginning July 1 following the date the individual is elected; and

(2) may be reelected.

Sec. 11. (a) Each commission:

(1) shall fix the time for regular meetings; and

(2) may hold special meetings at the call of the chairperson with seven (7) days written notice.

(b) A member may waive written notice of a specific meeting by filing a written notice with the commission.

(c) Written notice is considered to have been given under this section when the written notice is:

(1) placed in the United States mail, first class postage prepaid; and

(2) sent to the business addresses of the members of the commission.



1       **Sec. 12. A member of a commission is not entitled to the**  
 2       **minimum salary per diem provided by IC 4-10-11-2.1. The**  
 3       **member is also not entitled to reimbursement for traveling**  
 4       **expenses and other expenses actually incurred in connection with**  
 5       **the member's duties.**

6       **Sec. 13. (a) Each commission shall develop and maintain a**  
 7       **strategic comprehensive economic development plan for the**  
 8       **economic development region that must be approved by the**  
 9       **corporation.**

10       **(b) A strategic comprehensive economic development plan must**  
 11       **include at least the following:**

12               **(1) Key assets of the region, including institutions of higher**  
 13               **education, key employers, and innovation and colocation**  
 14               **spaces in the region.**

15               **(2) Identification of regional industry clusters and growth**  
 16               **areas that are specific to the region.**

17               **(3) An analysis of the region's workforce and talent**  
 18               **development, retention, and attraction strategies.**

19               **(4) Infrastructure needs of the region.**

20               **(5) Key development sites located in the region.**

21               **(6) Specific, measurable five (5) year and ten (10) year**  
 22               **objectives, and plans for achieving the objectives, for the**  
 23               **region, including targets for:**

24                       **(A) per capita income;**

25                       **(B) population;**

26                       **(C) employment; and**

27                       **(D) credential attainment among residents;**

28               **in the region.**

29       **(c) Each commission shall review and update its strategic**  
 30       **comprehensive economic development plan at least once every five**  
 31       **(5) years, or more often as determined necessary by the**  
 32       **corporation.**

33       **Sec. 14. (a) Each commission shall designate, or establish, a**  
 34       **primary administrative entity for the economic development**  
 35       **region that is responsible for:**

36               **(1) carrying out the strategic comprehensive economic**  
 37               **development plan for the region;**

38               **(2) managing resources in the region; and**

39               **(3) coordinating with other local organizations in the region.**

40       **(b) The primary administrative entity of a region shall serve as**  
 41       **the primary point of contact in the region for the corporation.**

42       **Sec. 15. Each primary administrative entity shall do the**



following:

(1) Submit the strategic comprehensive economic development plan to the corporation for approval upon completion and each time the plan is revised.

(2) Conduct semiannual performance reviews and prepare reports comparing stated goals and metrics against progress or completion of the goals or metrics and submit the reports to the corporation.

(3) Provide timely updates to the corporation concerning project timelines and the receipt of incentive and grant requests.

(4) Maintain transparent financial reporting that must be provided to the corporation upon request.

Sec. 16. The corporation may conduct periodic compliance reviews and audits of each commission and primary administrative entity at the discretion of the corporation. The corporation may have an audit of a commission's or a primary administrative entity's books and accounts made by a certified public accounting firm or the state board of accounts. If the audit is to be conducted by a certified public accounting firm, the firm may not be selected without a review of the firm's proposal and approval of the firm by the state board of accounts. The cost of the audit shall be considered an expense of the commission, and a copy of the audit shall be made available to the public.

Sec. 17. Each commission shall publish:

(1) after approval by the corporation, the strategic comprehensive economic development plan for the economic development region;

(2) key performance data related to the stated goals and objectives of the strategic comprehensive economic development plan; and

(3) minutes from each commission meeting;  
on a website maintained by the commission.

Sec. 18. (a) Subject to subsection (b), the corporation shall develop an allocation method for applicable tax credits and other available state incentives and grants among regions.

(b) When developing the allocation method required under subsection (a), the corporation shall determine an appropriate percentage of the total applicable tax credits and state incentives and grants available in a particular year to reserve for each region and for the corporation for certain strategies, state initiatives, and large projects.



1       (c) The corporation shall inform each commission of the  
2       allocation method developed under this section, including any  
3       factors considered as part of determining allocation amounts.

4       Sec. 19. In addition to applicable tax credits and other state  
5       incentives and grants allocated by a primary administrative entity,  
6       each primary administrative entity shall also disclose to the  
7       corporation any local incentives offered for a particular project.

8       Sec. 20. The corporation shall provide support to each  
9       commission and primary administrative entity to carry out the  
10      purposes of this chapter.

