LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6765 NOTE PREPARED: Dec 22, 2025

BILL NUMBER: HB 1141 BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Commingling Committee Funds.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Karickhoff BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FIRST SPONSOR:

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL IMPACT: State & Local

X DEDICATED FEDERAL

<u>Summary of Legislation</u>: The bill provides that a person who knowingly or intentionally violates a specified provision by commingling the funds of a committee with the personal funds of an officer, a member, or an associate of the committee commits a Class A misdemeanor. The bill enhances the penalty to a Level 6 felony if a person commingles at least \$50,000 of committee funds.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026.

Explanation of State Expenditures: A Level 6 felony is punishable by a prison term ranging from 6 to 30 months, with an advisory sentence of 1 year. The sentence depends on mitigating and aggravating circumstances. Assuming offenders can be housed in existing facilities with no additional staff, the marginal cost for medical care, food, and clothing is approximately \$4,825 annually, or \$13.22 daily, per prisoner. However, any additional expenditures are likely to be small.

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 Class A misdemeanor is \$5,000. The maximum fine for a Level 6 felony is \$10,000. Criminal fines are deposited in the Common School Fund. The total fee revenue per case would range between \$113 and \$138. The amount of court fees deposited will vary depending on whether the case is filed in a court of record or a municipal court. The following linked document describes the fees and distribution of the revenue: Court fees imposed in criminal, juvenile, and civil violation cases.

<u>Explanation of Local Expenditures:</u> If more defendants are detained in county jails prior to their court hearings, local expenditures for jail operations may increase. However, any additional expenditures would likely be small.

A Class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to one year in jail. The Gateway reports show that in CY 2023, housing offenders in 33 Indiana county jails cost an average of \$56 to \$79 per day.

Explanation of Local Revenues: If additional court actions occur and a guilty verdict is entered, more

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revenue will be collected by certain local units. If the case is filed in a court of record, the county general fund will receive \$47.40 and qualifying municipalities will receive a share of \$3.60. If the case is filed in a municipal court, the county receives \$30, and the municipality will receive \$46. The following linked document describes the fees and distribution of the revenue: Court fees imposed in criminal, juvenile, and civil violation cases.

State Agencies Affected:

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

<u>Information Sources:</u> Indiana Sheriffs' Association, Indiana Supreme Court, Indiana Trial Court Fee Manual; Department of Corrections; Indiana Gateway for Government Units, 2023 Annual Financial Reports, https://gateway.ifionline.org/public/download.aspx;; Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2023 Annual Survey of Jails Data Series, https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/NACJD/series/7.

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