

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

LS 6751
BILL NUMBER: HB 1161

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 15, 2026
BILL AMENDED: Jan 13, 2026

SUBJECT: Local Government Matters.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Lawson
FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: 2nd Reading - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: *At Will Board Appointments:* This bill provides that members appointed to: (1) local alcohol boards; (2) drainage boards; (3) capital improvement boards; (4) plan commissions; (5) a board of zoning appeals; (6) county building authorities; (7) county public defender boards; (8) community corrections advisory boards; (9) a commission to promote the development and growth of the convention, visitor, and tourism industry; (10) a governing board for city hospitals located in a third class city; (11) an economic development commission; (12) a redevelopment authority; (13) local boards of health; by a county executive of a county that does not contain a consolidated city, serve at the pleasure of the members appointing authority. It also provides that a member of a county or municipal park and recreation board serves at the pleasure of the member's appointing authority. The bill provides that a member of a city's board of park commissioners serves at the pleasure of the city executive and provides that members of an area park board serve at the pleasure of the member's appointing authority.

Salary Schedule and Personnel Policies: The bill provides that the county executive, excluding a county containing a consolidated city, may establish the salary of a county administrator subject to: (1) salary parameters established; or (2) approval; by the county fiscal body. It provides that each county executive, excluding a county containing a consolidated city and certain employees, shall adopt and maintain a written personnel policy, employee handbook, or equivalent document establishing minimum standards for county employee conduct, performance, and workplace expectations.

Parks and Recreation Board Actions: The bill provides that, after June 30, 2026, before a county or municipal park and recreation board may: (1) exercise the power of eminent domain; (2) enter into a contract with a cost exceeding the lesser of \$500,000 or ten percent of the district's annual budget; (3) acquire real or personal property with a cost exceeding the lesser of \$500,000 or ten percent of the district's annual budget; or (4) approve capital improvements to park facilities or property with a cost exceeding the lesser of \$500,000 or ten percent of the district's annual budget; the park and recreation board must obtain approval by the executive of each applicable unit that established the department of parks and recreation.

Restricted Addresses: The bill adds public defenders to the list of officials whose home addresses may be restricted from public property data base websites.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *At Will Board Appointments:* These provisions should not have any significant impact on local expenditures.

Salary Schedule and Personnel Policies: These provisions will increase the workload for county executives and county fiscal bodies.

Parks and Recreation Board Actions: Local unit executive bodies would have an additional workload if not already overseeing and approving county and municipal park recreation board requests to do the following:

- (1) exercise the power of eminent domain;
- (2) enter into a contract with a total cost exceeding the lesser of \$500,000 or ten percent of the district's annual budget;
- (3) acquire real or personal property with a total cost exceeding \$500,000 or ten percent of the district's annual budget; or
- (4) approve capital improvements to park facilities or property with a total cost exceeding \$500,000 or ten percent of the district's annual budget.

Local unit executive bodies would likely be able to study and approve/disapprove these requests within their existing level of resources and meeting schedule. If additional meetings are required to accommodate all requests, expenditures for executive body member compensation may increase by a minor amount.

Workload of local park and recreation boards would increase to prepare and provide their applicable county executive body with a description of the cost of the proposal for which the park and recreation boards are seeking approval.

Restricted Addresses: The bill adds public defenders to the list of covered person. It could increase the workload of local units to verify authenticity of written requests and remove the residential addresses of the covered person. The bill's requirements should be accomplished within existing resources and staffing.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Counties and municipalities; Local units of government that maintain public databases; County public defenders.

Information Sources:

Fiscal Analyst: James Johnson, 317-232-9869; Chris Baker, 317-232-9851.