

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

LS 6751
BILL NUMBER: HB 1161

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 17, 2026
BILL AMENDED: Feb 12, 2026

SUBJECT: Local Government Matters.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Lawson
FIRST SPONSOR: Sen. Clark

BILL STATUS: As Passed Senate

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: *At Will Board Appointments:* The bill provides that individuals who are appointed to certain boards, committees, or other bodies in a county that does not have a consolidated city, serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority as long as: (1) the officeholder who appointed the individual continues to hold the office; or (2) the board, committee, or body that appointed the individual retains all of the same members who served when the individual was appointed.

Oath of Office Authority: The bill provides that, in the case of a reorganized political subdivision, the oath of office of the town board of police commissioners is administered by any of the individuals granted notary powers.

Terms for Local Health Boards: The bill staggers the terms of a nine member local board of health.

Salary Schedule and Personnel Policies: The bill provides that the county executive, excluding a county containing a consolidated city, may set 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 requires the executive of a county or municipality (unit) to preapprove any of the following actions of the unit's park and recreation board, if the cost exceeds the lesser of \$500,000 or 10% of the park district's annual budget: (1) Exercising eminent domain powers. (2) Entering into a contract. (3) Acquiring real or personal property. (4) Making capital improvements.

Restricted Addresses: The bill adds public defenders to those 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, Oath of Office Authority, and Terms for Local Health Boards:* These various provisions in the bill 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; Local health boards.

Information Sources:

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