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HOUSE BILL No. 1161

Proposed Changes to introduced printing by AM116102

DIGEST OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Local government matters. Provides that the county executive may establish the salary of the county administration subject to salary parameters established by the county fiscal body. (Currently, the bill provides that the salary parameters are established by the county legislative body.) Provides that members appointed to: (1) a commission to promote the development and growth of the convention, visitor, and tourism industry under IC 6-9-18; (2) a local alcoholic beverage board; (3) a governing board for city hospitals located in a third class city; (4) an economic development commission; (5) a redevelopment authority; (6) a planning commission; (7) a board of zoning appeals, in a county that does not include a consolidated city; serve at the pleasure of the member's appointing authority. 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 the unit that established the department of parks and recreation. Makes changes to requirements relating to the establishment of a written personnel policy for county employees. Removes provisions from the bill that provide that members of a local airport authority serve at the pleasure of the members' appointing authority.

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning local government.

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

- 1 [SECTION 1. IC 6-9-18-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.175-2018,
- 2 SECTION 18, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
- 3 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. (a) If a tax is levied under section 3 of this
- 4 chapter, the county executive shall create a commission to promote the

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1 development and growth of the convention, visitor, and tourism
 2 industry in the county. If two (2) or more adjoining counties desire to
 3 establish a joint commission, the counties shall enter into an agreement
 4 under IC 36-1-7.

5 (b) The county executive shall determine the number of members,
 6 which must be an odd number, to be appointed to the commission. A
 7 simple majority of the members must be:

8 (1) engaged in a convention, visitor, or tourism business; or

9 (2) involved in or promoting conventions, visitors, or tourism.

10 A member appointed to the commission under subdivision (1) or (2)
 11 need not be a resident of the county if the member is an owner or an
 12 executive level employee of a convention, visitor, or tourism business
 13 that is located within the county. However, the member must be a
 14 resident of Indiana. If available and willing to serve, at least two (2) of
 15 the members must be engaged in the business of renting or furnishing
 16 rooms, lodging, or accommodations (as described in section 3 of this
 17 chapter). Not more than one (1) member may be affiliated with the
 18 same business entity. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection,
 19 each member must reside in the county. The county executive shall
 20 also determine who will make the appointments to the commission,
 21 except that the executive of the largest municipality in the county shall
 22 appoint a number of the members of the commission, which number
 23 shall be in the same ratio to the total size of the commission (rounded
 24 off to the nearest whole number) that the population of the largest
 25 municipality bears to the total population of the county.

26 (c) This subsection applies to a county in which a tax imposed
 27 under this chapter becomes effective after December 31, 1989. If a
 28 municipality other than the largest municipality in the county collects
 29 fifty percent (50%) or more of the tax revenue collected under this
 30 chapter during the three (3) month period following imposition of the
 31 tax, the executive of the municipality shall appoint the same number of
 32 members to the commission that the executive of the largest
 33 municipality in the county appoints under subsection (b).

34 (d) Except as provided in subsection (c), all terms of office of
 35 commission members begin on January 1. Initial appointments must be
 36 for staggered terms, with subsequent appointments for two (2) year
 37 terms. A member whose term expires may be reappointed to serve
 38 another term. If a vacancy occurs, the appointing authority shall
 39 appoint a qualified person to serve for the remainder of the term. If an
 40 initial appointment is not made by February 1 or a vacancy is not filled
 41 within thirty (30) days, the commission shall appoint a member by
 42 majority vote.



(e) A member of the commission may be removed for cause by serves at the pleasure of the member's appointing authority.

(f) Members of the commission may not receive a salary. However, commission members are entitled to reimbursement for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their respective duties.

(g) Each commission member, before entering the member's duties, shall take an oath of office in the usual form, to be endorsed upon the member's certificate of appointment and promptly filed with the clerk of the circuit court of the county.

(h) The commission shall meet after January 1 each year for the purpose of organization. It shall elect one (1) of its members president, another vice president, another secretary, and another treasurer. The members elected to those offices shall perform the duties pertaining to the offices. The first officers chosen shall serve from the date of their election until their successors are elected and qualified. A majority of the commission constitutes a quorum, and the concurrence of a majority of the commission is necessary to authorize any action.

SECTION ~~<1>~~ [2]. IC 7.1-2-4-21 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 21. Removal from Office. ~~<An appointed member appointed by the>~~ [For a local board <of county commissioners of> [in] a county that does not contain a consolidated city, an appointed member] serves at the pleasure of the board of ~~<county commissioners>~~ [member's appointing authority]. An appointed member of a local board, other than a member appointed ~~<by the>~~ [to a local] board <of county commissioners of> [in] a county that does not contain a consolidated city, may be removed from office only for good cause. The commission shall give the member a written copy of the charges against ~~him the member~~ and shall fix the time, which shall not be less than five (5) days thereafter, when the member may appear before the commission and show cause why ~~he the member~~ should not be removed. The commission shall establish procedures for the removal of an appointed member of a local board. The findings and determinations of the commission in respect to a removal shall be final. ~~<SECTION 2. IC 8-22-3-6, AS AMENDED BY P.L.134-2005, SECTION 7, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. (a) The board members shall be appointed as soon as possible after the adoption of an ordinance establishing an authority under this chapter. The term of each member starts at noon on the day the authority is established, at which time the board members shall meet and organize as the board.~~



~~(b) Members of the board shall be appointed as follows:~~
~~(1) One (1) member for an initial term of one (1) year.~~
~~(2) One (1) for an initial term of two (2) years.~~
~~(3) If a third or fourth appointment is required, one (1) for an initial term of three (3) years and one (1) for an initial term of four (4) years.~~
~~(4) If a fifth appointment is required, one (1) for an initial term of four (4) years.~~
~~(5) If a sixth appointment is necessary, one (1) for an initial term of four (4) years.~~
~~At the expiration of the respective terms, a member or members shall be appointed to fill the vacancies caused by the expiration. The members so appointed hold office for a term of four (4) years and until their successors are appointed and qualified. If the authority was established under IC 19-6-3 (before its repeal on April 1, 1980), at the expiration of the members' terms the mayor or the board of county commissioners shall appoint a member or members to fill the vacancies caused by the expiration. The members so appointed hold office for a term of three (3) years and until their successors are appointed and qualified.~~
~~(c) If a vacancy occurs in the board by resignation or otherwise, a member shall be appointed for the remainder of the term.~~
~~(d) A board member is eligible for reappointment to successive terms.~~
~~(e) A board member may be impeached under the procedure provided for the impeachment of county officers. In addition, board members appointed by a county executive serve at the pleasure of the county executive.~~
~~SECTION 3. IC 8-22-3-6.1 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6.1. (a) Notwithstanding section 6 of this chapter, the board members of an authority established under section 1.1 of this chapter shall be appointed on or before June 15, 1985. The term of each member starts at noon on the day the authority is established, at which time the board members shall meet and organize as the board.~~
~~(b) Members of the board shall be appointed as follows: two (2) members for an initial term of one (1) year, two (2) members for an initial term of two (2) years, and two (2) members for an initial term of three (3) years. At the expiration of the respective terms, a member or members shall be appointed to fill the vacancies caused by the expiration. The members so appointed shall hold office for a term of four (4) years and until their successors are appointed and qualified.~~



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~~—(c) If a vacancy occurs in the board by resignation or otherwise, a member shall be appointed for the remainder of the term.~~

~~—(d) A board member is eligible for reappointment to successive terms.~~

~~—(e) A board member may be impeached under the procedure provided for the impeachment of county officers. In addition, board members appointed by a county executive serve at the pleasure of the county executive.~~

> SECTION ~~<4>~~^[3]. IC 11-12-2-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.86-2017, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) To qualify for financial aid under this chapter, a county must establish a community corrections advisory board by resolution of the county executive or, in a county having a consolidated city, by the city-county council. A community corrections advisory board consists of:

- (1) the county sheriff or the sheriff's designee;
- (2) the prosecuting attorney or the prosecuting attorney's designee;
- (3) the executive of the most populous municipality in the county or the executive's designee;
- (4) two (2) judges having criminal jurisdiction, if available, appointed by the circuit court judge or the judges' designees;
- (5) one (1) judge having juvenile jurisdiction, appointed by the circuit court judge;
- (6) one (1) public defender or the public defender's designee, if available, or one (1) attorney with a substantial criminal defense practice appointed by the county executive or, in a county having a consolidated city, by the city-county council;
- (7) one (1) victim, or victim advocate if available, appointed by the county executive or, in a county having a consolidated city, by the city-county council;
- (8) one (1) ex-offender, if available, appointed by the county executive or, in a county having a consolidated city, by the city-county council;
- (9) the director of the local office of the department of child services or the director's designee;
- (10) a representative from a juvenile correctional facility or juvenile detention center in the county, but if no facility exists, one (1) mental health representative chosen by the judge described in subdivision (5);
- (11) a representative from the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, but if no program exists, a representative from the



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1 court appointed special advocate program in the county or
 2 guardian ad litem program in the county; and
 3 (12) the following members appointed by the county executive
 4 or, in a county having a consolidated city, by the city-county
 5 council:

6 (A) One (1) member of the county fiscal body or the
 7 member's designee.

8 (B) One (1) probation officer.

9 (C) One (1) juvenile probation officer.

10 (D) One (1) educational administrator.

11 (E) One (1) representative of a private correctional agency,
 12 if such an agency exists in the county.

13 (F) One (1) mental health administrator, or, if there is none
 14 available in the county, one (1) psychiatrist, psychologist,
 15 or physician.

16 (G) Four (4) lay persons, at least one (1) of whom must be
 17 a member of a minority race if a racial minority resides in
 18 the county and a member of that minority is willing to serve.

19 (b) Designees of officials designated under subsection (a)(1)
 20 through (a)(6), (a)(9), and (a)(12)(A) serve at the pleasure of the
 21 designating official.

22 (c) Members of the advisory board appointed by the county
 23 executive or, in a county having a consolidated city, by the city-county
 24 council, shall be appointed for a term of four (4) years. **In addition,**
 25 **members appointed by the county executive of a county that does**
 26 **not contain a consolidated city under this section serve at the**
 27 **pleasure of the county executive.** The criminal defense attorney, the
 28 ex-offender, and the victim or victim advocate shall be appointed for
 29 a term of four (4) years. Other members serve only while holding the
 30 office or position held at the time of appointment. The circuit court
 31 judge may fill the position of the judge having juvenile court
 32 jurisdiction by self appointment if the circuit court judge is otherwise
 33 qualified. A vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term of
 34 office shall be filled in the same manner as original appointments for
 35 the unexpired term. Members may be reappointed.

36 (d) Two (2) or more counties, by resolution of their county
 37 executives or, in a county having a consolidated city, by the city-county
 38 council, may combine to apply for financial aid under this chapter. If
 39 counties so combine, the counties may establish one (1) community
 40 corrections advisory board to serve these counties. This board must
 41 contain the representation prescribed in subsection (a), but the
 42 members may come from the participating counties as determined by



agreement of the county executives or, in a county having a consolidated city, by the city-county council.

(e) The members of the community corrections advisory board shall, within thirty (30) days after the last initial appointment is made, meet and elect one (1) member as chairman and another as vice chairman and appoint a secretary-treasurer who need not be a member. A majority of the members of a community corrections advisory board may provide for a number of members that is:

(1) less than a majority of the members; and

(2) at least six (6);

to constitute a quorum for purposes of transacting business. The affirmative votes of at least five (5) members, but not less than a majority of the members present, are required for the board to take action. A vacancy in the membership does not impair the right of a quorum to transact business.

(f) The county executive and county fiscal body shall provide necessary assistance and appropriations to the community corrections advisory board established for that county. Appropriations required under this subsection are limited to amounts received from the following sources:

(1) Department grants.

(2) User fees.

(3) Other funds as contained within an approved plan.

Additional funds may be appropriated as determined by the county executive and county fiscal body.

SECTION ~~4~~⁴. IC 16-20-2-8 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 8. **(a) A member of a local board of health appointed by a county executive of a county that does not contain a consolidated city serves at the pleasure of the county executive.**

(b) In addition, any A member of a local board of health may be removed by the **board member's** appointing authority if the board member does any of the following:

(1) Is absent from three (3) consecutive regular board meetings.

(2) Is absent from four (4) regular board meetings during a calendar year.

(3) Fails to perform the statutory duties of the office.

[SECTION 5. IC 16-23-1-9 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 9. (a) The directors shall be appointed on the third Monday of January.

(b) The initial terms of the governing board are as follows:

(1) Two (2) members for one (1) year.



(2) Two (2) members for two (2) years.

(3) One (1) member for three (3) years.

(4) Two (2) members for four (4) years.

(c) Each subsequent term is for four (4) years.

(d) The term of each member begins February 1 in the year of appointment at the expiration of the member's predecessor's term and continues four (4) years and until a successor is appointed and qualified. However, an interim member chosen to fill a vacancy begins tenure at the time specified in the member's certificate of appointment and serves the unexpired term of the member the interim member succeeds. **The member serves at the pleasure of the member's appointing authority.**

SECTION 6. IC 33-40-7-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.111-2024, SECTION 11, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) A county executive may adopt an ordinance establishing a county public defender board consisting of three (3) members. The county executive shall appoint one (1) member. The judges who exercise felony or juvenile jurisdiction in the county shall appoint by majority vote one (1) member. The Indiana commission on court appointed attorneys shall appoint one (1) member who must be a resident of the county or region managing the public defender's office.

(b) The members must be persons who have demonstrated an interest in high quality legal representation for indigent persons. However, a member may not be:

(1) a city, town, or county attorney;

(2) a law enforcement officer;

(3) a judge;

(4) a court employee;

(5) an attorney who provides representation to indigent persons in the county or region managed by the public defender board;

(6) an employee of the department of child services; or

(7) an employee of any individuals described in subdivisions (1) through (6).

(c) Each member of the board serves a three (3) year term beginning with the date of the member's appointment. A member appointed to fill a vacancy holds office for the remainder of the previous member's term. **Each member appointed by a county executive serves at the pleasure of the county executive.** If a successor has not been appointed by the end of a member's three (3) year term, the member continues in office until the member's successor takes office. In the case of a county public defender board established



before July 1, 2019, the appointment by the Indiana commission on court appointed attorneys shall begin upon the first expiration of a current term of a member appointed by the judges who exercise felony or juvenile jurisdiction in the county.

(d) The members shall, by a majority vote, elect one (1) member to serve as chairperson.

(e) Meetings shall be held at least quarterly and may be held at other times during the year at the call of the:

(1) chairperson; or

(2) other two (2) members.

(f) A county executive may terminate the board by giving at least ninety (90) days written notice to the judges described in subsection (a).

SECTION 7. IC 33-40-7-3.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.111-2024, SECTION 12, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3.5. (a) A county executive may adopt an ordinance allowing the county to enter into an interlocal agreement (as described in IC 36-1-7-3) with one (1) or more counties for the purpose of:

(1) creating a multicounty public defender's office; and

(2) providing legal defense services to indigent persons located in the counties served by the multicounty public defender's office.

(b) An agreement described in subsection (a) shall:

(1) require any created multicounty public defender's office to be administered by a joint board (as described in IC 36-1-7-3(a)(5)(B)); and

(2) delegate, to an auditor of one (1) of the constituent counties comprising the multicounty public defender's office, the duty to receive, disburse, and account for all monies distributed to the multicounty public defender's office.

(c) Notwithstanding any guidelines and standards adopted by the Indiana commission on court appointed attorneys under IC 33-40-5-4, the members of a joint board shall be persons who have demonstrated an interest in high quality legal representation for indigent persons.

(d) Notwithstanding any other law or provision, a member of the joint board may not be:

(1) a city, town, or county attorney;

(2) a law enforcement officer;

(3) a judge;

(4) a court employee;

(5) an employee of the department of child services;



(6) an attorney who provides representation to indigent persons in one (1) or more of the counties served by the multicounty public defender's office being administered by the joint board; or (7) an employee of any individuals described in subdivisions (1) through (6).

(e) Each member of the joint board shall serve a three (3) year term that begins on the date of the member's appointment to the joint board. **Each member serves at the pleasure of the member's appointing authority.**

(f) A member appointed to the joint board for the purpose of filling a vacancy shall serve a term limited to the duration of the previous member's term.

(g) If a successor has not been appointed before the end of a member's three (3) year term, the current member of the joint board shall continue the member's service until the member's successor:

- (1) has been appointed; and
- (2) is able to begin the member's term.

(h) The members shall, by a majority vote, elect one (1) member to serve as a chairperson.

(i) The joint board shall meet on a quarterly basis. The joint board may convene additional meetings upon the request of:

- (1) the chairperson; or
- (2) two (2) serving members of the joint board.

SECTION 8. IC 36-2-2-14, AS AMENDED BY P.L.127-2017, SECTION 20, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 14. (a) The executive may appoint a county administrator to be the administrative head of the county under the supervision of the executive and to hold office at the pleasure of the executive. The executive may assign any office, position, or duties under its control to the administrator, and may by resolution withdraw any of the powers and duties assigned.

(b) Under the supervision of the executive and with its express authorization by resolution, the administrator may:

- (1) assist in the administration and enforcement of policies and resolutions of the executive;
- (2) supervise activities of county government subject to the control of the executive;
- (3) attend meetings of the executive;
- (4) recommend measures for adoption to the executive;
- (5) prepare and submit reports that the administrator considers advisable or that the executive requires;
- (6) keep the executive fully advised on the financial condition of



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the county;

(7) prepare and submit a budget for each fiscal year; and

(8) perform other duties that the executive requests by resolution.

(c) If the administrator is absent from the administrator's office due to illness, death, vacation, resignation, or removal, the president of the executive, if any, or a qualified person appointed by the executive shall act as administrator until the administrator returns to the administrator's duties or the executive appoints a new administrator.

(d) **The county executive may establish the salary of the county administrator subject to salary parameters established by the county ~~legislative~~ [fiscal] body.**

SECTION ~~9~~ [15]. IC 36-2-21 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]:

[Chapter 21. County Personnel Policy and Evaluation Standards

Sec. 1. This chapter does not apply to:

(1) a county containing a consolidated city; or

(2) employees:

(A) of a probation department;

(B) of a court;

(C) of a judicial officer (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-177.7) or other circuit officers;

(D) of a prosecutor's office;

(E) of a public defender's office;

(F) of a community corrections program;

(G) governed by a merit board established under IC 36-8-3.5 or IC 36-8-10-3; or

(H) of the state.

Sec. 2. (a) Each county executive, in coordination with the county fiscal body if applicable, shall adopt and maintain a written personnel policy, employee handbook, or equivalent document establishing minimum standards for county employee conduct and applicable county policies.

(b) A county executive, a county fiscal body, and county officers shall require all county employees, including existing employees, to sign an acknowledgment of receipt of the adopted personnel policy or employee handbook as a condition of employment.

Sec. 3. Results of evaluations shall be maintained as part of the employee's personnel record in accordance with county policy.



1 Sec. 4. An elected county officer or their designee retains
 2 responsibility for and authority over final disciplinary decisions for
 3 employees under the officer's supervision, unless otherwise
 4 permitted or required by state law.

5 Sec. 5. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to diminish
 6 or infringe upon the statutory authority, autonomy, or
 7 constitutional duties of:

8 (1) a county executive;

9 (2) a county fiscal body;

10 (3) an elected county officer (as defined in IC 36-2-2.9-3);

11 (4) a judicial officer (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-177.7), other
 12 circuit officers, or employees of a judicial or circuit officer;

13 (5) a prosecutor's office;

14 (6) a public defender's office;

15 (7) a community corrections advisory board established
 16 under IC 11-12-2-2; or

17 (8) a merit board established under IC 36-8-3.5 or
 18 IC 36-8-10-3.

19 SECTION 9. IC 36-4-9-6, AS AMENDED BY P.L.141-2009,
 20 SECTION 10, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 21 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. (a) This section applies only to second class
 22 cities.

23 (b) The city executive shall appoint:

24 (1) a city controller;

25 (2) a city civil engineer;

26 (3) a corporation counsel;

27 (4) a chief of the fire department;

28 (5) a chief of the police department; and

29 (6) other officers, employees, boards, and commissions required
 30 by statute.

31 (c) The board of public works and safety may be composed of
 32 three (3) members or five (5) members appointed by the executive. A
 33 member serves at the pleasure of the executive. A member may hold
 34 other appointive positions in city government during the member's
 35 tenure. IC 36-4-11-2 applies to board member appointments under this
 36 section. The executive shall appoint a clerk for the board.

37 (d) If the board of public works and board of public safety are
 38 established as separate boards, each board may be composed of three
 39 (3) members or five (5) members who are appointed by the executive.
 40 A member may hold other appointive positions in city government
 41 during the member's tenure. The executive shall appoint a clerk for
 42 each board.



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(e) If the executive:

(1) increases the number of members of a board of public works and safety, a board of public works, or a board of public safety from three (3) to five (5) members; or

(2) decreases the number of members of a board of public works and safety, a board of public works, or a board of public safety from five (5) to three (3) members;

the city shall publish notice under IC 5-3-1 of the increase or decrease in members and state the total number of members appointed to the board.

SECTION 10. IC 36-4-9-8, AS AMENDED BY P.L.33-2010, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 8. (a) This section applies only to third class cities.

(b) The city executive shall appoint:

(1) a city civil engineer;

(2) a city attorney;

(3) a chief of the fire department;

(4) a chief of the police department; and

(5) other officers, employees, boards, and commissions required by statute.

(c) The board of public works and safety consists of three (3) or five (5) members (as determined by the city executive). The members of the board of public works and safety are:

(1) the city executive; and

(2) two (2) or four (4) persons appointed by the executive.

A member appointed by the executive serves at the pleasure of the executive. If the executive increases the number of board members from three (3) to five (5) members or decreases the number of board members from five (5) to three (3) members, the city shall publish notice under IC 5-3-1 of the increase or decrease in members and state the total number of members appointed to the board. IC 36-4-4-2 notwithstanding, a member may hold other appointive or elective positions in city government during the member's tenure. IC 36-4-11-2 applies to board member appointments under this section. The city clerk is the clerk of the board.

(d) If the city legislative body adopts an ordinance under IC 36-4-12 to employ a city manager, the executive may appoint the city manager to a position on the board of public works and safety in place of the executive.

(e) The city executive may appoint a public safety director to:

(1) serve as the chief administrative officer of; and



(2) oversee the operations of;
the police department and fire department. The city executive shall
determine the qualifications of the public safety director.

SECTION 11. IC 36-7-4-218, AS AMENDED BY P.L.127-2017,
SECTION 171, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
[EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 218. (a) When an initial term of
office of a citizen member expires, each new appointment of a citizen
member is:

(1) for a term of four (4) years (in the case of a municipal,
county, or area plan commission);

(2) for a term of three (3) years (in the case of a metropolitan
plan commission); or

(3) for a term of one (1), two (2), or three (3) years, as designated
by the appointing authority (in the case of the metropolitan
development commission).

A member serves until the member's successor is appointed and
qualified. A member is eligible for reappointment.

(b) ADVISORY. Upon the establishment of a nine (9) member
municipal plan commission, the citizen members shall initially be
appointed for the following terms of office:

(1) One (1) for a term of two (2) years.

(2) Two (2) for a term of three (3) years.

(3) Two (2) for a term of four (4) years.

Upon the establishment of a seven (7) member municipal plan
commission, two (2) citizen members shall initially be appointed for a
term of three (3) years and two (2) shall initially be appointed for a
term of four (4) years. Each member's term expires on the first Monday
of January of the second, third, or fourth year, respectively, after the
year of the member's appointment.

(c) ADVISORY. Upon the establishment of a county plan
commission, the citizen members shall initially be appointed for the
following terms of office:

(1) One (1) for a term of one (1) year.

(2) One (1) for a term of two (2) years.

(3) One (1) for a term of three (3) years.

(4) Two (2) for a term of four (4) years.

Each member's term expires on the first Monday of January of the first,
second, third, or fourth year, respectively, after the year of the
member's appointment.

(d) ADVISORY. Upon the establishment of a metropolitan plan
commission, the citizen members shall initially be appointed for the
following terms of office:



1 (1) Three (3) for a term of one (1) year, one (1) appointed by the
 2 county legislative body and two (2) by the city executive.

3 (2) Two (2) for a term of two (2) years, one (1) by each
 4 appointing authority.

5 (3) Two (2) for a term of three (3) years, one (1) by each
 6 appointing authority.

7 (e) AREA. If there is one (1) citizen member on the area plan
 8 commission, the member's initial term of office is one (1) year. If there
 9 are two (2) citizen members, one (1) shall be appointed for a term of
 10 one (1) year and one (1) for a term of two (2) years. If there are three
 11 (3) or more citizen members, one (1) shall be appointed for a term of
 12 one (1) year, one (1) for a term of two (2) years, one (1) for a term of
 13 three (3) years, and any remainder for a term of four (4) years. Each
 14 member's term expires on the first Monday of January of the first,
 15 second, third, or fourth year, respectively, after the year of the
 16 member's appointment.

17 (f) ADVISORY–AREA. A member serves on the plan
 18 commission at the pleasure of the member's appointing authority.
 19 The appointing authority may remove a member from the plan
 20 commission for cause. The appointing authority must mail notice of the
 21 removal, along with written reasons for the removal, to the member at
 22 the member's residence address. A member who is removed may,
 23 within thirty (30) days after receiving notice of the removal, appeal the
 24 removal to the circuit or superior court of the county. The court may,
 25 pending the outcome of the appeal, order the removal or stay the
 26 removal of the member.

27 (g) METRO. The appointing authority may remove a citizen
 28 member from the metropolitan development commission. The
 29 appointing authority must mail notice of the removal, along with
 30 written reasons, if any, for the removal, to the member at the member's
 31 residence address. A member who is removed may not appeal the
 32 removal to a court or otherwise.

33 SECTION 12. IC 36-7-4-906, AS AMENDED BY P.L.127-2017,
 34 SECTION 175, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 35 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 906. (a) ADVISORY–AREA.
 36 When an initial term of office expires, each new appointment is for a
 37 term of four (4) years.

38 (b) ADVISORY–AREA. Upon the establishment of a division of
 39 the board of zoning appeals, the members shall initially be appointed
 40 as provided in the zoning ordinance for the following terms of office:

41 (1) One (1) for a term of one (1) year.

42 (2) One (1) for a term of two (2) years.



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1 (3) One (1) for a term of three (3) years.

2 (4) Two (2) for a term of four (4) years.

3 (c) ADVISORY–AREA. Under subsection (b), each term expires
 4 on the first Monday of January of the first, second, third, or fourth year,
 5 respectively, after the year of the member's appointment.

6 (d) METRO. Each appointment of a member of a division of a
 7 board of zoning appeals is for a term of one (1) year.

8 (e) METRO. The appointing authority may remove a member from
 9 the metropolitan board of zoning appeals. The appointing authority
 10 must mail notice of the removal, along with written reasons, if any, for
 11 the removal, to the member at the member's residence address. A
 12 member who is removed may not appeal the removal to a court or
 13 otherwise.

14 (f) ADVISORY–AREA. A member of the board of zoning
 15 appeals serves at the pleasure of the member's appointing
 16 authority. The appointing authority may remove a member from the
 17 board of zoning appeals for cause. The appointing authority must mail
 18 notice of the removal, along with written reasons for the removal, to the
 19 member at the member's residence address. A member who is removed
 20 may, within thirty (30) days after receiving notice of the removal,
 21 appeal the removal to the circuit or superior court of the county.

22 (g) A member of a board of zoning appeals serves until the
 23 member's successor is appointed and qualified. A member is eligible
 24 for reappointment.

25 SECTION 13. IC 36-7-12-14, AS AMENDED BY P.L.127-2017,
 26 SECTION 196, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 27 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 14. (a) **This subsection applies to**
 28 **an economic development commission established under section 8**
 29 **of this chapter.** An economic development commissioner may be
 30 removed from office for neglect of duty, incompetency, inability to
 31 perform the commissioner's duties, or any other good cause, by the
 32 executive or fiscal body that selected or nominated the commissioner.
 33 The commissioner removed may obtain judicial review of the removal
 34 by filing a complaint in a circuit or superior court in the county, and the
 35 burden of proof is upon the executive or fiscal body that removed the
 36 commissioner. The cause shall be placed on the advanced calendar and
 37 be tried as other civil causes are tried by the court, without a jury. The
 38 court's judgment may be appealed in the same manner as any civil
 39 action.

40 (b) **This subsection does not apply to an economic development**
 41 **commission established under section 8 of this chapter. An**
 42 **economic development commissioner serves at the pleasure of the**



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member's appointing authority.

SECTION 14. IC 36-7-14.5-8 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 8. (a) The board is composed of three (3) members, who must be residents of the unit appointed by the executive of the unit.

(b) A member is entitled to serve a three (3) year term. A member may be reappointed to subsequent terms.

(c) If a vacancy occurs on the board, the executive of the unit shall fill the vacancy by appointing a new member for the remainder of the vacated term.

(d) A board member:

(1) for a board established in a county containing a consolidated city, may be removed for cause by the executive of the unit; and

(2) for a board established in a county that does not contain a consolidated city, serves at the pleasure of the executive.

(e) Each member, before entering upon the duties of office, must take and subscribe an oath of office under IC 5-4-1, which shall be endorsed upon the certificate of appointment and filed with the records of the board.

(f) A member may not receive a salary, and no profit or money of the authority inures to the benefit of a member.

A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]:

Chapter 21. County Personnel Policy and Evaluation Standards

Sec. 1. This chapter does not apply to:

(1) a county containing a consolidated city; or

(2) employees of:

(A) a probation department;

(B) a court;

(C) a prosecutor's office; or

(D) the state.

Sec. 2. (a) Each county executive shall adopt and maintain a written personnel policy, employee handbook, or equivalent document establishing minimum standards for county employee conduct, performance, and workplace expectations.

(b) The policy shall apply to all county employees, including those employed by separately elected county officers.

(c) A county executive may require all county employees, including existing employees, to sign an acknowledgment of receipt of the adopted personnel policy or employee handbook.



(d) If an employee refuses to sign the acknowledgment described in subsection (c), the county executive may treat the refusal as noncompliance with mandatory employment requirements and may take appropriate employment action, including termination, subject to applicable county procedures.

Sec. 3. (a) Each elected county officer shall ensure that employees under the county officer's supervision:

- (1) receive and acknowledge the applicable personnel policy; and
- (2) adhere to the policy's provisions regarding conduct and job performance.

(b) A county executive may establish a uniform evaluation rubric derived from the personnel policy to measure compliance with standards of conduct and performance.

Sec. 4. (a) Evaluations under the rubric may be performed:

- (1) internally by the elected county officer or their designee; or
- (2) by a neutral evaluator mutually agreed upon by the board of county commissioners and the elected county officer.

(b) If a mutually agreed upon neutral evaluator cannot be selected, the board of county commissioners may convene a three (3) member selection committee consisting of:

- (1) one (1) commissioner or the commissioner's designee;
- ~~(2) the elected county officer supervising the employee; and~~
- ~~(3) one (1) additional elected county officer chosen by the board of county commissioners.~~

~~The committee shall select the neutral evaluator by majority vote.~~

~~(c) Results of evaluations shall be maintained as part of the employee's personnel record in accordance with county policy.~~

~~Sec. 5. (a) A county legislative body may by ordinance establish procedures for handling verified complaints alleging violations of the personnel policy adopted under this chapter.~~

~~(b) Procedures adopted under this section may include corrective or disciplinary recommendations based on the evaluation rubric and personnel policy.~~

~~(c) An elected county officer retains authority over final disciplinary decisions for employees under the officer's supervision, unless otherwise permitted or required by state law.~~

~~Sec. 6. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to diminish or infringe upon the statutory authority, autonomy, or constitutional duties of any elected county officer.~~

~~SECTION 10. IC 36-7-4-218, AS AMENDED BY~~



~~P.L.127-2017, SECTION 171, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 218. (a) When an initial term of office of a citizen member expires, each new appointment of a citizen member is:~~

- ~~— (1) for a term of four (4) years (in the case of a municipal, county, or area plan commission);~~
- ~~— (2) for a term of three (3) years (in the case of a metropolitan plan commission); or~~
- ~~— (3) for a term of one (1), two (2), or three (3) years, as designated by the appointing authority (in the case of the metropolitan development commission);~~

~~A member serves until the member's successor is appointed and qualified. A member is eligible for reappointment.~~

~~(b) ADVISORY. Upon the establishment of a nine (9) member municipal plan commission, the citizen members shall initially be appointed for the following terms of office:~~

- ~~— (1) One (1) for a term of two (2) years;~~
- ~~— (2) Two (2) for a term of three (3) years;~~
- ~~— (3) Two (2) for a term of four (4) years.~~

~~Upon the establishment of a seven (7) member municipal plan commission, two (2) citizen members shall initially be appointed for a term of three (3) years and two (2) shall initially be appointed for a term of four (4) years. Each member's term expires on the first Monday of January of the second, third, or fourth year, respectively, after the year of the member's appointment.~~

~~(c) ADVISORY. Upon the establishment of a county plan commission, the citizen members shall initially be appointed for the following terms of office:~~

- ~~— (1) One (1) for a term of one (1) year;~~
- ~~— (2) One (1) for a term of two (2) years;~~
- ~~— (3) One (1) for a term of three (3) years;~~
- ~~— (4) Two (2) for a term of four (4) years;~~

~~Each member's term expires on the first Monday of January of the first, second, third, or fourth year, respectively, after the year of the member's appointment.~~

~~(d) ADVISORY. Upon the establishment of a metropolitan plan commission, the citizen members shall initially be appointed for the following terms of office:~~

- ~~— (1) Three (3) for a term of one (1) year, one (1) appointed by the county legislative body and two (2) by the city executive;~~
- ~~— (2) Two (2) for a term of two (2) years, one (1) by each appointing authority;~~



- 1 ~~— (3) Two (2) for a term of three (3) years, one (1) by each~~
 2 ~~appointing authority.~~
 3 ~~— (c) AREA. If there is one (1) citizen member on the area plan~~
 4 ~~commission, the member's initial term of office is one (1) year. If~~
 5 ~~there are two (2) citizen members, one (1) shall be appointed for a~~
 6 ~~term of one (1) year and one (1) for a term of two (2) years. If there~~
 7 ~~are three (3) or more citizen members, one (1) shall be appointed~~
 8 ~~for a term of one (1) year, one (1) for a term of two (2) years, one~~
 9 ~~(1) for a term of three (3) years, and any remainder for a term of~~
 10 ~~four (4) years. Each member's term expires on the first Monday of~~
 11 ~~January of the first, second, third, or fourth year, respectively,~~
 12 ~~after the year of the member's appointment.~~
 13 ~~— (f) ADVISORY AREA. A member of a plan commission~~
 14 ~~appointed by a county executive serves at the pleasure of the~~
 15 ~~county executive. The appointing authority, other than a county~~
 16 ~~executive, may remove a member appointed by the applicable~~
 17 ~~appointing authority from the plan commission for cause. The~~
 18 ~~appointing authority that removes a member for cause must mail~~
 19 ~~notice of the removal, along with written reasons for the removal,~~
 20 ~~to the member at the member's residence address. A member who~~
 21 ~~is removed may, within thirty (30) days after receiving notice of the~~
 22 ~~removal, appeal the removal to the circuit or superior court of the~~
 23 ~~county. The court may, pending the outcome of the appeal, order~~
 24 ~~the removal or stay the removal of the member.~~
 25 ~~— (g) METRO. The appointing authority may remove a citizen~~
 26 ~~member from the metropolitan development commission. The~~
 27 ~~appointing authority must mail notice of the removal, along with~~
 28 ~~written reasons, if any, for the removal, to the member at the~~
 29 ~~member's residence address. A member who is removed may not~~
 30 ~~appeal the removal to a court or otherwise.~~
 31 ~~— SECTION 11. IC 36-7-4-906, AS AMENDED BY~~
 32 ~~P.L.127-2017, SECTION 175, IS AMENDED TO READ AS~~
 33 ~~FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 906. (a)~~
 34 ~~ADVISORY AREA. When an initial term of office expires, each~~
 35 ~~new appointment is for a term of four (4) years.~~
 36 ~~— (b) ADVISORY AREA. Upon the establishment of a division~~
 37 ~~of the board of zoning appeals, the members shall initially be~~
 38 ~~appointed as provided in the zoning ordinance for the following~~
 39 ~~terms of office:~~
 40 ~~— (1) One (1) for a term of one (1) year.~~
 41 ~~— (2) One (1) for a term of two (2) years.~~
 42 ~~— (3) One (1) for a term of three (3) years.~~



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~~— (4) Two (2) for a term of four (4) years.~~

~~— (e) ADVISORY AREA. Under subsection (b), each term expires on the first Monday of January of the first, second, third, or fourth year, respectively, after the year of the member's appointment.~~

~~— (d) METRO. Each appointment of a member of a division of a board of zoning appeals is for a term of one (1) year.~~

~~— (e) METRO. The appointing authority may remove a member from the metropolitan board of zoning appeals. The appointing authority must mail notice of the removal, along with written reasons, if any, for the removal, to the member at the member's residence address. A member who is removed may not appeal the removal to a court or otherwise.~~

~~— (f) ADVISORY AREA. A member of a board of zoning appeals appointed by a county executive serves at the pleasure of the county executive. The appointing authority, other than a county executive, may remove a member appointed by the applicable appointing authority from the board of zoning appeals for cause. The appointing authority that removes a member for cause must mail notice of the removal, along with written reasons for the removal, to the member at the member's residence address. A member who is removed may, within thirty (30) days after receiving notice of the removal, appeal the removal to the circuit or superior court of the county.~~

~~— (g) A member of a board of zoning appeals serves until the member's successor is appointed and qualified. A member is eligible for reappointment.~~

~~— SECTION 12>~~ SECTION 15. IC 36-9-13-18, AS AMENDED BY P.L.127-2017, SECTION 309, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 18. (a) A trustee appointed by a county executive of a county that does not contain a consolidated city serves at the pleasure of the county executive.

(a) (b) This subsection does not apply to a trustee appointed by a county executive of a county that does not contain a consolidated city. A person seeking the removal of a trustee for:

- (1) neglect of duty;
- (2) incompetence;
- (3) inability to perform the trustee's duties; or
- (4) any other good cause;

may file a complaint in the circuit or superior court for the county in which the building authority is located. The complaint must set forth



the charges preferred. The action shall be placed on the court's advanced calendar, and the court shall try the action in the same manner as other civil cases, without a jury. If the charges are sustained, the court shall declare the trustee's office vacant.

~~(b)~~ (c) The trustees may summarily remove a director from office at any time.

SECTION 1 ~~↔~~ [6]. IC 36-9-27-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.278-2019, SECTION 194, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. (a) Except in a county having a consolidated city or as provided in subsection (d), the drainage board consists of either:

(1) the county executive; or

(2) three (3) or five (5) persons, at least one (1) of whom must be a member of the executive, appointed by the executive;

at the option of the executive. Appointees under subdivision (2) must be resident freeholders of the county who are knowledgeable in drainage matters. Freeholders appointed to the board serve for terms of three (3) years, with their initial appointments made so as to provide for staggering of terms on an annual basis. In addition, the county surveyor serves on the board as an ex officio, nonvoting member. **If a member is appointed by a county executive of a county that does not contain a consolidated city under subdivision (2) who is not a member of the executive, the member serves at the pleasure of the county executive.**

(b) In a county having a consolidated city, the board of public works of the consolidated city comprises the drainage board, subject to IC 36-3-4-23.

(c) In a county having a consolidated city, the department of public works of the consolidated city has all the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the county surveyor under this chapter, subject to IC 36-3-4-23.

SECTION 1 ~~↔~~ [7]. IC 36-10-3-6, AS AMENDED BY P.L.127-2017, SECTION 377, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. A member ~~may be removed only for cause; upon specific written charges filed against the member. The charges shall be filed with and heard by the appointing authority, unless the appointing authority is bringing the charges. If the appointing authority is bringing the charges, the unit's fiscal body shall appoint a hearing officer. The person to hear the charges shall fix a date for a public hearing and give public notice at least ten (10) days in advance of the hearing. At the hearing the member is entitled to present evidence and argument and to be represented by counsel.~~ **appointed to**



a board under this chapter serves at the pleasure of the member's appointing authority. If a member is removed by the member's appointing authority, the appointing authority shall fill the vacancy by appointing a new member to serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority for the remainder of the removed member's term.

SECTION 1 ~~8~~ [8]. IC 36-10-3-11 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 11. (a) The board may:

- (1) **subject to subsection (d)**, enter into contracts and leases for facilities and services;
- (2) contract with persons for joint use of facilities for the operation of park and recreation programs and related services;
- (3) contract with another board, a unit, or a school corporation for the use of park and recreation facilities or services, and a township or school corporation may contract with the board for the use of park and recreation facilities or services;
- (4) **subject to subsection (d)**, acquire and dispose of real and personal property, either within or outside Indiana;
- (5) **subject to subsection (d)**, exercise the power of eminent domain under statutes available to municipalities;
- (6) sell, lease, or enter into a royalty contract for the natural or mineral resources of land that it owns, the money received to be deposited in a nonreverting capital fund of the board;
- (7) engage in self-supporting activities as prescribed by section 22 of this chapter;
- (8) contract for special and temporary services and for professional assistance;
- (9) delegate authority to perform ministerial acts in all cases except where final action of the board is necessary;
- (10) prepare, publish, and distribute reports and other materials relating to activities authorized by this chapter;
- (11) sue and be sued collectively by its legal name, as the "_____ (unit's name) Park and Recreation Board", with service of process being had upon the president of the board, but costs may not be taxed against the board or its members in any action;
- (12) invoke any legal, equitable, or special remedy for the enforcement of this chapter, a park or recreation ordinance, or the board's own action taken under either; and
- (13) release and transfer, by resolution, a part of the area over which it has jurisdiction for park and recreational purposes to park authorities of another unit for park and recreational



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1 purposes upon petition of the park or recreation board of the
2 acquiring unit.

3 (b) The board may also lease any buildings or grounds belonging
4 to the unit and located within a park to a person for a period not to
5 exceed fifty (50) years. The lease may authorize the lessee to provide
6 upon the premises educational, research, veterinary, or other proper
7 facilities for the exhibition of wild or domestic animals in wildlife
8 parks, dining facilities, swimming facilities, golf courses, skating
9 facilities, dancing facilities, amusement rides generally found in
10 amusement parks, or other recreational facilities. A lease may be made
11 for more than one (1) year only to the highest and best bidder, after
12 notice that the lease will be made has been given by publication in
13 accordance with IC 5-3-1.

14 (c) Notwithstanding subsection (b), the board may lease buildings
15 or grounds belonging to the unit for a period of more than one (1) year
16 without soliciting the highest and best bidder or providing notice under
17 IC 5-3-1 if:

- 18 (1) the buildings or grounds are leased to an Indiana nonprofit
19 corporation;
- 20 (2) the buildings or grounds are operated as a public golf course;
- 21 and
- 22 (3) the golf course remains subject to rules and regulations
23 promulgated by the board.

24 (d) **This subsection applies after June 30, 2026. Except as**
25 **otherwise provided by this subsection, before the board may:**

- 26 (1) exercise the power of eminent domain under subsection
- 27 (a)(5);
- 28 (2) enter into a contract under subsection (a)(1) with a total
- 29 cost exceeding ~~one~~ [the lesser of:
- 30 (A) five] hundred thousand dollars (\$~~4~~ [5]00,000)]; or
- 31 (B) ten percent (10%) of the department's annual
- 32 budget];
- 33 (3) acquire real or personal property under subsection (a)(4)
- 34 with a total cost exceeding ~~one~~ [the lesser of:
- 35 (A) five] hundred thousand dollars (\$~~4~~ [5]00,000)]; or
- 36 (B) ten percent (10%) of the department's annual
- 37 budget; or
- 38 (4) approve capital improvements to park facilities or
- 39 property with a total cost exceeding ~~one~~ [the lesser of:
- 40 (A) five] hundred thousand dollars (\$~~4~~ [5]00,000)]; or
- 41 (B) ten percent (10%) of the department's annual
- 42 budget];



the board must obtain approval by the executive of ~~<the>~~ each applicable unit that established the department under this chapter. ~~<However, in the case in which a joint department of parks and recreation is established under section 29 of this chapter, the joint department of parks and recreation must obtain approval by the county executive if each unit that participates in the joint department of parks and recreation is located in the same county. If the units that establish the joint department of parks and recreation are located in two (2) or more counties, the expenses described in subdivisions (1) through (4) must be approved by the county executive in the county in which the district has the most assessed valuation of property for purposes of calculating property tax under IC 6-1.1.>~~ The board shall provide the applicable ~~<county>~~ [unit] executive a description of the cost of the service, property, or capital improvement described in subdivisions (1) through (4) ~~<as well as>~~ [and] a description of the manner in which the cost will be paid by the board or department.

SECTION 1 ~~<6>~~ [9]. IC 36-10-4-4 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. (a) By February 1 each year, the executive shall appoint a commissioner to fill the vacancy caused by the expiration of a term. Each commissioner appointed holds office for a term of four (4) years, beginning with January 1 in the year of appointment. If a vacancy occurs on the board, the executive shall appoint a commissioner for the remainder of the term.

(b) A commissioner ~~may not be removed from office except upon charges preferred in writing before the executive, with a hearing held on them. If the executive is bringing the charges, the fiscal body shall appoint a hearing officer. The only permissible reasons for removal are as follows:~~ serves at the pleasure of the executive. If a commissioner is removed by the executive, the commissioner appointed to replace the removed commissioner serves at the pleasure of the executive for the remainder of the removed commissioner's term.

(1) Inefficiency;

(2) Neglect of duty;

(3) Malfeasance in office;

SECTION ~~<17>~~ [20]. IC 36-10-5-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.277-2019, SECTION 17, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) This section applies to:

(1) third class cities and towns, unless otherwise provided by law; and



- 1 (2) each second class city that:
 2 (A) adopted second class city status by ordinance under
 3 IC 36-4-1-1.1, as a result of the 2010 federal decennial
 4 census; and
 5 (B) has adopted all or part of this section by ordinance or
 6 resolution.
- 7 (b) As used in this section, "park authority" means:
 8 (1) the municipal legislative body; or
 9 (2) any of the following designated by the legislative body as the
 10 park authority:
 11 (A) The governing body of the school corporation.
 12 (B) A recreation board.
 13 (C) The municipal works board.
 14 (D) Any other appropriate board or commission.
- 15 (c) If a recreation board is established under subsection (b)(2)(B),
 16 it must consist of five (5) resident freeholders appointed by the city
 17 executive or the town legislative body. At least one (1) member must
 18 be a member of the governing body of the school corporation and no
 19 members may serve on the municipal legislative body. All members
 20 must be qualified by an interest in and knowledge of the social and
 21 educational value of recreation. The members serve without
 22 compensation. The members shall be appointed for four (4) year terms
 23 from January 1 of the year of their appointment or until their successors
 24 are appointed. The initial terms of board members, however, are as
 25 follows:
 26 (1) One (1) for a term of one (1) year.
 27 (2) One (1) for a term of two (2) years.
 28 (3) One (1) for a term of three (3) years.
 29 (4) Two (2) for terms of four (4) years.
- 30 **A member serves at the pleasure of the member's appointing**
 31 **authority.** A vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority for the
 32 remainder of the unexpired term.
- 33 (d) The park authority shall manage all public parks, including
 34 approaches, that belong to the municipality.
- 35 (e) If a municipality decides, by ordinance, to establish, lay out, or
 36 improve a public park or grounds, or to make an extension of a park or
 37 grounds, it may locate the park or grounds, including appurtenances,
 38 and it may lay out and open the public ways necessary for the
 39 improvement. If it is necessary to acquire land, water rights, or
 40 easements, or a pool, lake, or natural stream of water, the park authority
 41 may condemn that property and take possession of it if it is located
 42 within the corporate boundaries of the municipality. Before the park



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1 authority condemns the property, it shall assess the damages to the
 2 owners of the property at a meeting of the authority. Additional
 3 condemnation proceedings are the same as those provided for the
 4 taking of property to open streets.

5 (f) The park authority may adopt rules concerning the laying out,
 6 improvement, preservation, ornamentation, and management of parks.
 7 The park authority shall allow monuments or buildings for libraries,
 8 works of art, or historical collections to be erected in a park, as long as
 9 they are under the control of the persons in charge of the park and no
 10 inclosure separates them from the rest of the park.

11 (g) The legislative body of the municipality may also levy a tax on
 12 all taxable property in the municipality to pay for park property and for
 13 its improvement. The legislative body may also borrow money and
 14 issue the bonds of the municipality at any rate of interest payable
 15 annually or semiannually and may sell them for at least par value. The
 16 money derived from the sale of bonds may be used only for the
 17 purchase or improvement of parks. The legislative body shall annually
 18 levy a tax sufficient to pay the interest on the debt on all taxable
 19 property in the municipality to create a sinking fund for the liquidation
 20 of the principal of the debt.

21 (h) If the park authority of a city decides to lease any buildings or
 22 grounds belonging to the city and located in a public park when they
 23 are not required for public use, the proceeds shall be deposited with the
 24 city fiscal officer to the credit of park funds and devoted to the
 25 improvement of public parks.

26 (i) Any nonreverting fund that was created under IC 19-7-6 (before
 27 its repeal on September 1, 1981) continues until abolished by ordinance
 28 of the municipal legislative body. The legislative body may include in
 29 the park authority's annual budget an item and an appropriation for the
 30 specific purposes of a nonreverting capital fund. Money put in the fund
 31 may not be withdrawn except for the purposes for which the fund was
 32 created, unless the legislative body repeals the ordinance creating the
 33 fund. The repeal may not be made under suspension of the rules.
 34 Money procured from fees shall be deposited at least once each month
 35 with the municipal fiscal officer. The fiscal officer shall deposit the
 36 money either in a special nonreverting operating fund or in the
 37 nonreverting capital fund as directed by the park authority. The
 38 legislative body may provide by ordinance that expenditures may be
 39 made from the special nonreverting operating fund without
 40 appropriation. Money from fees procured from golf courses, swimming
 41 pools, skating rinks, or other similar facilities requiring major
 42 expenditures for management and maintenance may not be deposited



1 in this fund. Money from either fund shall be disbursed only on
 2 approved claims that are allowed and signed in the same manner as
 3 other claims of the municipality are allowed and signed.

4 SECTION ~~<18>~~[21]. IC 36-10-5-5, AS AMENDED BY
 5 P.L.104-2022, SECTION 220, IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 6 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. (a) This section
 7 applies to a municipality that:

8 (1) has a population of more than twenty-five thousand (25,000);
 9 and

10 (2) is located in a county having a population of more than three
 11 hundred thousand (300,000) and less than three hundred fifty
 12 thousand (350,000).

13 (b) A municipal board consists of four (4) members appointed by
 14 the executive of the municipality. **Members serve at the pleasure of**
 15 **the executive of the municipality.** A member shall be appointed on
 16 the basis of the member's interest in and knowledge of parks and
 17 recreation. The members may include the executive of the municipality
 18 and one (1) or more members of the municipal fiscal body. The
 19 ordinance creating a municipal board governed by this section may
 20 provide for one (1) or two (2) ex officio members.

21 SECTION ~~<19>~~[22]. IC 36-10-6-2, AS AMENDED BY
 22 P.L.127-2017, SECTION 385, IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 23 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) This section
 24 applies to all counties.

25 (b) As used in this section, "board" refers to an area park board
 26 established under this chapter.

27 (c) As used in this section, "district" refers to an area park district
 28 established under this chapter.

29 (d) Two (2) or more counties may establish an area park district
 30 for the purposes of establishing, owning, maintaining, and controlling
 31 one (1) or more public parks for the use and benefit of the residents of
 32 those counties. To establish a district, the legislative body of each
 33 county desiring to join shall adopt substantially identical ordinances
 34 indicating this intention. Before the ordinances take effect, they must
 35 be published in their respective counties in accordance with IC 5-3-1.
 36 Within ten (10) days after the publication of the ordinance, the auditor
 37 of each county shall file a certified copy of the ordinance with the
 38 auditor of each of the other counties involved. When the ordinances
 39 have been adopted and filed by all the counties joining, the district is
 40 considered established. All of the territory of the counties joining
 41 comprises the district.

42 (e) Within ten (10) days after the publication of the ordinance, any



1 registered voter may notify the legislative body of the voter's intent to
 2 file a remonstrance petition. Within sixty (60) days after this notice,
 3 petitions for and against the county's joining in the proposed district
 4 may be filed with the legislative body. The petitions must be signed
 5 and acknowledged by registered voters of the county. The petition that
 6 contains the greater number of signatures prevails.

7 (f) Within thirty (30) days after the establishment of the district,
 8 the legislative body of each county joining shall appoint members to
 9 the area park board. Each county may appoint one (1) member to the
 10 board. In addition, each county may appoint an additional member for
 11 each fifty thousand (50,000) residents or fraction thereof of that
 12 county's population. Each member must be a resident of the county
 13 from which the member is appointed, and at least one (1) member from
 14 each county must be an elected official of that county. Members serve
 15 for terms of four (4) years and may be reappointed. **A member serves**
 16 **at the pleasure of the member's appointing authority.** Vacancies
 17 shall be filled by the appointing authority for the unexpired term of the
 18 vacating member.

19 (g) The board shall meet within thirty (30) days after the
 20 appointment of all members. Notice of the meeting shall be given by
 21 the auditor of the county that passed the first ordinance to establish the
 22 district. At the meeting the board shall elect one (1) of its members
 23 chair and one (1) secretary and shall adopt rules of order that it
 24 considers necessary. The board shall then meet at times and places that
 25 it determines. Members serve on the board without compensation.
 26 However, all members except the elected official members are entitled
 27 to receive a per diem and mileage for time spent in the performance of
 28 their duties.

29 (h) Except as provided in subsection (i), the board has all of the
 30 powers of a board under IC 36-10-3 except the power of eminent
 31 domain.

32 (i) The board may levy a tax for the establishment, purchase,
 33 maintenance, and control of the parks established and controlled by the
 34 board, but the tax may not exceed one and sixty-seven hundredths cents
 35 (\$0.0167) for each one hundred dollars (\$100) of assessed valuation of
 36 property in the district. When the board determines the rate of the levy,
 37 the board shall certify it to each county auditor. The levy shall then be
 38 placed upon the tax duplicate of each county in the district, and the tax
 39 shall be collected in the same manner as other taxes are collected. All
 40 money received for the district shall be paid into the treasury of the
 41 county with the greatest population. The money shall be deposited and
 42 kept as other public funds are deposited and kept, and interest earned



on the money shall be credited to the area park fund. Money may be paid out by the treasurer only upon the written order of the board.

(j) A county may withdraw from a district only upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of its legislative body. If a county decides to withdraw from a district, the date of withdrawal must be effective on January 1 of a year at least one (1) year after the date upon which the county voted to withdraw.

SECTION 2~~66~~[3]. IC 36-10-8-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.229-2011, SECTION 267, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. (a) The board is composed of seven (7) members.

(b) The county executive shall determine in the creating ordinance which units within the county shall make appointments to the board. In addition, the creating ordinance must provide that no more than four (4) of the members be affiliated with the same political party. The creating ordinance must also provide staggered terms for the appointments.

(c) Notwithstanding subsection (b), if a board was created under IC 18-7-18 (before its repeal on February 24, 1982), three (3) members shall be appointed by the executive of the second class city and three (3) members shall be appointed by the executive of the county. Those members shall select the seventh member, who serves as president. One (1) of the members appointed by the city executive must be engaged in the hospitality industry in the city. No more than two (2) of the members appointed by the city executive may be affiliated with the same political party and no more than two (2) of the members appointed by the county executive may be affiliated with the same political party. In addition, each member must have been a resident of the county for at least one (1) year immediately preceding the member's appointment. Initial terms of the members are as follows:

(1) One (1) of the members appointed by each appointing authority for a term ending January 15 of the year following the appointment.

(2) Two (2) of the members appointed by each appointing authority for a term ending January 15 of the second year following the appointment.

(3) The seventh member serves for a term ending January 15 of the second year following the appointment.

(d) Subsequent terms of members are for two (2) years. All terms begin on January 15. A member serves until a successor is appointed and qualified. A member may be reappointed after the member's term has expired.



(e) If a vacancy occurs on the board, the appointing authority shall appoint a new member. That member serves for the remainder of the vacated term.

(f) A board member, **other than a board member appointed by the county executive**, may be removed for cause by the appointing authority who appointed the member. **A member appointed by the county executive serves at the pleasure of the county executive.**

(g) Each member, before entering upon the member's duties, shall take and subscribe an oath of office in the usual form. The oath shall be endorsed upon the member's certificate of appointment. The certificate shall be promptly filed with the records of the board. However, if the board was created under IC 18-7-18 (before its repeal on February 24, 1982), the certificate shall be filed with the clerk of the circuit court of the county in which the board is created.

(h) A member may not receive a salary, but is entitled to reimbursement for any expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of the member's duties. [

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