

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

LS 6502

BILL NUMBER: HB 1173

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 8, 2025

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Designated Public Forums.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Wesco

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FIRST SPONSOR:

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: The bill defines a "designated public forum". It provides that the state or a political subdivision may impose time, place, and manner restrictions on speech in a designated public forum, provided that such restrictions are: (1) justified by a compelling interest of the state or political subdivision; (2) narrowly tailored; (3) administered using the least restrictive means available; and (4) viewpoint neutral.

It provides that the state or a political subdivision may not exclude speech: (1) made by a religious or political group, if the speech is consistent with the designated public forum's purpose; or (2) solely because it expresses a religious or political viewpoint.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026.

Explanation of State Expenditures: State agencies that have designated public forums, as defined in the bill, may need to alter their policies to ensure compliance with the bill.

Explanation of State Revenues: If additional civil cases occur and court fees are collected, revenue to the state General Fund will increase. The total revenue per case would range between \$100 and \$122. The amount 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 civil, probate, and small claims cases](#).

Explanation of Local Expenditures: Local units that have designated public forums, as defined in the bill, may need to alter their policies to ensure compliance with the bill.

Explanation of Local Revenues: If additional cases occur, revenue will be collected by certain local units. If the case is filed in a court of record, the county will receive \$32 and qualifying municipalities will receive a share of \$3. If the case is filed in a municipal court, the county receives \$20, and the municipality will receive \$37. The following linked document describes the fees and distribution of the revenue: [Court fees imposed in civil, probate, and small claims cases](#).

State Agencies Affected: State agencies with rentable facilities/spaces that would be considered “designated public forums” under the bill.

Local Agencies Affected: Trial courts, city and town courts, local units of government.

Information Sources: Indiana Supreme Court, Indiana Trial Court Fee Manual.

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