
HOUSE BILL No. 1204

AM120402 has been incorporated into January 30, 2026 printing.

Synopsis: Natural resource entrance fees.

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HB 1204—LS 6295/DI 150



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Reprinted
January 30, 2026

Second Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2026)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

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HOUSE BILL No. 1204

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning natural and cultural resources.

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

1 SECTION 1. IC 14-8-2-87.9 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
2 CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
3 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 87.9. "Fees", for purposes of**
4 **IC 14-19-3-6, means entrance or admission fees that are paid in a**
5 **county upon or after entering an Indiana state park or state**
6 **recreation area located in the county.**

7 SECTION 2. IC 14-8-2-225.6 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
8 CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
9 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 225.6. "Public safety", for**
10 **purposes of IC 14-19-3-6, has the meaning set forth in**
11 **IC 6-3.6-2-14.**

12 SECTION 3. IC 14-19-3-6 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
13 AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
14 1, 2026]: **Sec. 6. (a) The general assembly finds the following:**

15 **(1) Counties in which a significant amount of land is owned**
16 **by the state or federal government, or in which a reservoir**
17 **is located, experience a unique loss of tax revenue for use in**

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- 1 providing government services such as public safety and
 2 maintaining the drinking water supply.
- 3 (2) A unique approach is required to ensure that the counties
 4 receive additional revenue to pay for public safety and to
 5 address reservoir water quality issues for those who use the
 6 reservoir as both a source of drinking water and recreation.
- 7 (3) The additional revenue collected through a local
 8 ordinance by a county benefits the health and welfare of the
 9 people and is of public utility and benefit.
- 10 (4) The influx of visitors to the federal and state lands creates
 11 additional financial costs for counties, including additional
 12 burdens on law enforcement and infrastructure.
- 13 (b) This section applies to a county in which the department
 14 collects an entrance fee for entry into a state park or state
 15 recreation area.
- 16 (c) A county fiscal body may adopt an ordinance to impose a
 17 surcharge on the fees paid in the county for entry into a state park
 18 or state recreation area located in the county. A county fiscal body
 19 that adopts an ordinance under this section shall notify the director
 20 of the department. The department shall report the surcharge
 21 collected under the ordinance on forms approved by the county
 22 treasurer.
- 23 (d) The surcharge is equal to an amount of not more than one
 24 dollar (\$1) in addition to the fees charged by the department for
 25 entry into the state park or state recreation area. However, the
 26 surcharge may not be imposed on a person who holds an annual
 27 pass issued under section 5 of this chapter.
- 28 (e) The department shall:
- 29 (1) begin collecting the surcharge not later than sixty (60)
 30 days after receiving notice under subsection (c) of the
 31 adoption of an ordinance; and
- 32 (2) subject to subsection (f), pay the surcharge collected
 33 during a month to the county treasurer not later than the
 34 end of the following month.
- 35 (f) If:
- 36 (1) the state park or state recreation area is located in more
 37 than one (1) county; and
- 38 (2) each county in which the state park or state recreation
 39 area is located has passed an ordinance under subsection (c);
 40 the department shall prorate the surcharge and pay a prorated
 41 share to the county treasurer for each county in which the state
 42 park or state recreation area is located.

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- 1 **(g) The surcharge collected by the department and paid to the**
- 2 **county treasurer must, as applicable, be used for one (1) or both of**
- 3 **the following in accordance with an ordinance adopted under**
- 4 **subsection (c):**
- 5 **(1) Public safety.**
- 6 **(2) Infrastructure, including water quality improvements,**
- 7 **that:**
- 8 **(A) impacts state park visitation; or**
- 9 **(B) is for the benefit of the state park, including the**
- 10 **protection of:**
- 11 **(i) the state park's natural resources; or**
- 12 **(ii) an adjacent community to the state park.**

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