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HOUSE BILL No. 1204

Proposed Changes to January 30, 2026 printing by AM120402

DIGEST OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Definition. Makes a citation change to avoid a conflict with another bill.

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. ~~8~~ ⁹ IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
- 2 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
- 3 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 87. ~~8~~ ⁹. "Fees", for purposes**
- 4 **of IC 14-19-3-6, means entrance or admission fees that are paid in**
- 5 **a 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**
- 18 **providing government services such as public safety and**
- 19 **maintaining the drinking water supply.**
- 20 **(2) A unique approach is required to ensure that the counties**

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1 receive additional revenue to pay for public safety and to
 2 address reservoir water quality issues for those who use the
 3 reservoir as both a source of drinking water and recreation.

4 (3) The additional revenue collected through a local
 5 ordinance by a county benefits the health and welfare of the
 6 people and is of public utility and benefit.

7 (4) The influx of visitors to the federal and state lands creates
 8 additional financial costs for counties, including additional
 9 burdens on law enforcement and infrastructure.

10 (b) This section applies to a county in which the department
 11 collects an entrance fee for entry into a state park or state
 12 recreation area.

13 (c) A county fiscal body may adopt an ordinance to impose a
 14 surcharge on the fees paid in the county for entry into a state park
 15 or state recreation area located in the county. A county fiscal body
 16 that adopts an ordinance under this section shall notify the director
 17 of the department. The department shall report the surcharge
 18 collected under the ordinance on forms approved by the county
 19 treasurer.

20 (d) The surcharge is equal to an amount of not more than one
 21 dollar (\$1) in addition to the fees charged by the department for
 22 entry into the state park or state recreation area. However, the
 23 surcharge may not be imposed on a person who holds an annual
 24 pass issued under section 5 of this chapter.

25 (e) The department shall:

26 (1) begin collecting the surcharge not later than sixty (60)
 27 days after receiving notice under subsection (c) of the
 28 adoption of an ordinance; and

29 (2) subject to subsection (f), pay the surcharge collected
 30 during a month to the county treasurer not later than the
 31 end of the following month.

32 (f) If:

33 (1) the state park or state recreation area is located in more
 34 than one (1) county; and

35 (2) each county in which the state park or state recreation
 36 area is located has passed an ordinance under subsection (c);
 37 the department shall prorate the surcharge and pay a prorated
 38 share to the county treasurer for each county in which the state
 39 park or state recreation area is located.

40 (g) The surcharge collected by the department and paid to the
 41 county treasurer must, as applicable, be used for one (1) or both of
 42 the following in accordance with an ordinance adopted under

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1 subsection (c):
 2 (1) Public safety.
 3 (2) Infrastructure, including water quality improvements,
 4 that ~~is~~:
 5 (A) ~~impacted by tourism~~ impacts state park
 6 visitation; or
 7 (B) is for the benefit of ~~tourism~~:
 8 >[the state park, including the protection of:
 9 (i) the state park's natural resources; or
 10 (ii) an adjacent community to the state park.
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