

HOUSE BILL No. 1326

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 2-5-57.5.

Synopsis: Indiana emergency efficiency and resilience task force. Establishes the Indiana emergency efficiency and resilience task force (task force). Provides that the task force shall study certain topics related to disaster resilience. Requires the task force to submit a written report with specific findings and recommendations to the legislative council not later than December 1, 2026.

Effective: July 1, 2026.

Baird

January 6, 2026, read first time and referred to Committee on Veterans Affairs and Public Safety.



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.

HOUSE BILL No. 1326

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning the general assembly.

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

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 2-5-57.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
- 2 AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
- 3 JULY 1, 2026]:
- 4 **Chapter 57.5. Indiana Emergency Efficiency and Resilience**
- 5 **Task Force**
- 6 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "task force" refers to the Indiana**
- 7 **emergency efficiency and resilience task force established by**
- 8 **section 2 of this chapter.**
- 9 **Sec. 2. The Indiana emergency efficiency and resilience task**
- 10 **force is established.**
- 11 **Sec. 3. (a) The task force consists of the following members:**
- 12 **(1) Five (5) members of the senate, appointed as follows:**
- 13 **(A) Three (3) members appointed by the president pro**
- 14 **tempore, one (1) of whom serves as co-chair of the task**
- 15 **force.**
- 16 **(B) Two (2) members appointed by the minority leader.**
- 17 **(2) Five (5) members of the house of representatives,**



1 appointed as follows:

2 (A) Three (3) members appointed by the speaker, one (1)
3 of whom serves as co-chair of the task force.

4 (B) Two (2) members appointed by the minority leader.

5 (3) The following nonvoting members:

6 (A) The director of the department of natural resources.

7 (B) The commissioner of the department of environmental
8 management.

9 (C) A representative from the office of emergency
10 management established within the department of
11 homeland security, appointed by the governor.

12 (D) A representative from the Indiana department of
13 transportation, appointed by the governor.

14 (E) A representative from the Indiana state department of
15 agriculture, appointed by the governor.

16 The members described in subdivisions (1) and (2) are voting
17 members.

18 (b) A member of the task force serves for the duration of the
19 task force.

20 (c) A vacancy on the task force shall be filled by the appointing
21 authority.

22 Sec. 4. (a) The task force shall meet at the call of the co-chairs.

23 (b) The affirmative votes of a majority of the voting members
24 of the task force are required for the task force to take action on
25 any measure.

26 (c) A quorum of the task force consists of six (6) members.

27 (d) All meetings of the task force are open to the public in
28 accordance with and subject to IC 5-14-1.5. All records of the task
29 force are subject to the requirements of IC 5-14-3.

30 Sec. 5. (a) Each member of the task force who is a member of
31 the general assembly is entitled to receive per diem, mileage, and
32 travel allowances. Per diem, mileage, and travel allowances paid
33 under this subsection shall be paid from appropriations made to
34 the legislative council or the legislative services agency.

35 (b) Each member of the task force who is not a member of the
36 general assembly is not entitled to reimbursement for traveling
37 expenses as provided under IC 4-13-1-4 or other expenses actually
38 incurred in connection with the member's duties as provided in the
39 state policies and procedures established by the Indiana
40 department of administration and approved by the budget agency.

41 (c) The expenses of the task force shall be paid from amounts
42 appropriated to the legislative council or the legislative services



agency.

Sec. 6. The legislative services agency shall provide staff support to the task force.

Sec. 7. (a) The task force shall do the following:

(1) Conduct a gap analysis of resilience efforts in Indiana, including:

(A) a review of past and current initiatives to increase disaster resilience; and

(B) an assessment of data gaps with respect to current and future disaster risks, including data describing precipitation patterns, stream flows, and riverine and flash flood risk.

(2) Study the benefit of establishing an office or officer responsible for leading and coordinating resilience efforts in Indiana, including:

(A) a review of how other states have implemented or established:

(i) state resilience offices;

(ii) chief resilience officers; and

(iii) state resilience plans; and

(B) an assessment of whether the models described in clause (A) may be replicable in Indiana.

(3) Assess water management roles within the department of natural resources and department of environmental management to:

(A) align responsibilities;

(B) consolidate processes where appropriate; and

(C) improve statewide operational efficiency.

(b) In discharging duties under this section, the task force may hear testimony from professionals, academics, and others with relevant expertise.

Sec. 8. Not later than December 1, 2026, the task force shall submit a written report to the legislative council in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6. The report must state specific findings and recommendations regarding the following:

(1) What duties are necessary for leading and coordinating resilience efforts in Indiana.

(2) Whether a state resilience officer, or equivalent position, should be established to lead and coordinate resilience efforts in Indiana, and where this position should be located within state government.

(3) Whether the duties necessary to lead and coordinate



1 resilience efforts in Indiana should be assigned to an existing
2 state agency.

3 **(4) Whether a statewide plan for long term disaster resilience**
4 **and risk reduction should be created.**

5 **(5) How a statewide plan for long term disaster resilience and**
6 **risk reduction should be created or incorporated into existing**
7 **planning processes.**

8 **(6) What elements a statewide plan for long term disaster**
9 **resilience and risk reduction should contain.**

10 **(7) How best to consolidate water responsibilities within state**
11 **agencies to increase efficiencies.**

12 **The report may propose legislation or recommend specific**
13 **executive action.**

14 **Sec. 9. This chapter expires December 31, 2026.**

