

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

LS 6815

BILL NUMBER: HB 1344

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 23, 2026

BILL AMENDED: Jan 22, 2026

SUBJECT: Funding of Prosecuting Attorney Operations.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Steuerwald

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ **GENERAL**
☒ **DEDICATED**
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill establishes the Public Prosecution Fund and a Prosecuting Attorney Compensation Fee (a court fee) of \$10 for certain actions and \$50 for certain actions which will be deposited in the state General Fund. It provides that a county may be reimbursed for certain prosecutorial expenses from the fund, unless the prosecuting attorney in the county is a noncompliant prosecuting attorney. It also requires the Indiana Prosecuting Attorney's Council to set standards for reimbursement.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Summary* - The bill will increase the workload of Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council (IPAC) to administer the Public Prosecution Fund and adopt guidelines and standards for services under which the counties will be eligible for reimbursement from the fund. Upon receipt of noncompliance, the IPAC shall instruct the State Comptroller to withhold reimbursement funding from the county. These new requirements for the IPAC should be able to be implemented with existing resources.

Additional Information - Reimbursement for Deputy Prosecutors: The bill establishes a nonreverting Public Prosecution Fund to provide county reimbursement of compensation paid to deputy prosecutors and administrative expenses. The fund consists of money appropriated by the General Assembly. Any increase in state expenditures from the fund would depend upon the counties eligibility, availability of funds, and the administrative agency authorizations.

Based on the CY 2024 Employee Compensation by Unit reported to Indiana Gateway, OFMA found 111 deputy prosecuting attorneys whose salaries are at least 55% (\$100,380) of the salary paid to the elected full-time prosecuting attorney in the county. In CY 2024, there were approximately 672 full-time deputy prosecutors paid by the counties, including Title IV-D deputy prosecuting attorneys. As of December 2025, depending on the county, the salary for a full-time prosecuting attorney could range between \$109,806 and \$183,513; therefore, 55% of the elected full-time prosecuting attorney salary is \$100,932. It is unknown how many deputy prosecuting attorneys would qualify for reimbursement based on the current salary of the elected full-time prosecuting attorney. *[This fiscal note will be updated when more information is available.]*

This estimate also includes Title IV-D deputy prosecuting attorneys. However, if these prosecutors are excluded from the bill, the cost for salaries and fringe benefits could decrease. Currently, under the federal Title IV-D program, states receive reimbursement for child support services through incentive payments thereby allowing the states to recoup costs associated with prosecutorial services for child support and paternity cases.

Explanation of State Revenues: (Revised) *Summary* - The bill will significantly increase revenue to the state General Fund from the Prosecuting Attorney Compensation Fee. As a result, revenue to the state General Fund will increase by approximately \$17.7 M and \$19.7 M annually.

This estimate is based on the average number of cases disposed between CY 2020 and CY 2024 by civil filings, jury trial, bench trial, bench disposition, deferred/diverted, and guilty plea/admission. On average, a total of 274,162 cases are disposed and 403,481 civil actions are filed each year. This includes the following case types: criminal, infraction or ordinance violations, civil, probate, and deferred prosecution cases. To the extent that certain case types are excluded from the fee, the estimated revenue would be less.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Reimbursement for Deputy Prosecutors:* The bill could result in significant cost savings to participating counties eligible for reimbursement from the fund. The amount can be up to 27.5% of the salary the county pays to the elected full-time prosecuting attorney. The county can also receive up to \$15,140 to reimburse fringe benefits provided to a deputy prosecuting attorney. However, the actual fiscal impact will depend on the eligible counties.

It is unknown how many deputy prosecuting attorneys would qualify for reimbursement based on the current salary of the elected full-time prosecuting attorney. *[This fiscal note will be updated when more information is available.]*

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Indiana Prosecuting Attorney Council.

Local Agencies Affected: County prosecuting attorneys; counties.

Information Sources: Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council; Indiana Gateway for Government Units, <https://gateway.ifionline.org/default.aspx>.

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