

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

LS 7115
BILL NUMBER: HB 1417

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 19, 2026
BILL AMENDED: Feb 19, 2026

SUBJECT: Causes of Action and Damages.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Lehman
FIRST SPONSOR: Sen. Baldwin

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 2nd House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) The bill establishes a Tort Reform Commission. The bill also limits a civil cause of action concerning a public nuisance.

Effective Date: Upon passage; July 1, 2026.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *(Revised) Tort Reform Commission:* The bill establishes a 15-member executive branch commission consisting of the Governor, Chief Justice of Indiana, and the commissioner of the Indiana Department of Insurance (or their designees); six legislative members; and six lay members. All members are entitled to reimbursement of travel expenses. Legislative and lay members are entitled to a per diem. Expenses of the commission are to be paid from appropriations made to the Governor (for state employees and lay members) and from appropriations to the Legislative Council (for legislative members).

The bill will increase workload for the members serving on the commission. The bill may additionally increase workload for the Indiana Supreme Court and the Indiana Office of Court Technology to provide the data needed by the commission. The office of the Governor is to staff the commission. The commission is to submit a report by November 1, 2026. The commission expires June 30, 2028.

(Revised) Public Nuisance Limitation: The bill places certain limitations on public nuisance actions that are available to the state of Indiana or a state agency, which could potentially reduce the workload of the OAG, in representing the state, if fewer actions are pursued.

Explanation of State Revenues: *(Revised) Public Nuisance Cause of Action:* The bill provides that the state of Indiana or a state agency may only seek prospective injunctive relief for the abatement of the public nuisance. They may recover damages that are reasonably necessary to abate the public nuisance, but may not recover money damages associated with a potential future harm.

(Revised) Court Fee Revenue: If the limitations on public nuisance causes of action that are available to the state reduces court cases, court fee revenue could decrease. Any impact is expected to be minimal.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *(Revised) Court Caseloads:* The bill places certain limitations on public nuisance actions that are available to the state, which could potentially reduce court cases filed. Any impact is expected to be minimal.

Explanation of Local Revenues: *(Revised) Court Fee Revenue:* If the limitations on public nuisance causes of action that are available to the state reduces court cases, court fee revenue to local units could decrease. Any impact is expected to be minimal.

State Agencies Affected: All; Office of the Attorney General.

Local Agencies Affected: Trial courts, city and town courts.

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

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