

# SENATE BILL No. 55

---

## DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 15-15-12.5.

**Synopsis:** Soybean market development. Creates the soybean market development program (program). Specifies that the program goes into effect only if assessments are not levied and collected under federal law. Requires the Indiana Soybean Alliance to administer the program. Establishes various procedures and requirements for operating the program.

**Effective:** July 1, 2026.

---

---

## Leising

---

---

December 8, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Agriculture.

---

---



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.

## SENATE BILL No. 55

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning agriculture and animals.

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

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 15-15-12.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
- 2 AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
- 3 JULY 1, 2026]:
- 4 **Chapter 12.5. Soybean Market Development**
- 5 **Sec. 1. (a) The Indiana Soybean Alliance shall serve as the**
- 6 **Qualified State Soybean Board for the state of Indiana as provided**
- 7 **in 7 CFR 1220.228(a)(1) as long as the ISA collects assessments**
- 8 **under the:**
- 9 **(1) Soybean Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information**
- 10 **Act (7 U.S.C. 6301 through 7 U.S.C. 6311); and**
- 11 **(2) Soybean Promotion and Research Order (7 CFR 1220).**
- 12 **(b) The provisions of this chapter, other than subsection (a),**
- 13 **apply only if assessments are not levied and collected under the:**
- 14 **(1) Soybean Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information**
- 15 **Act (7 U.S.C. 6301 through 7 U.S.C. 6311); and**
- 16 **(2) Soybean Promotion and Research Order (7 CFR 1220);**
- 17 **by the ISA as the Qualified State Soybean Board (as defined in 7**



CFR 1220.122).

(c) Except as provided in subsection (d), this chapter applies to all types, varieties, and forms of soybeans marketed or sold as soybeans by a producer in Indiana.

(d) Organic soybean farmers are exempt from this chapter if an organic soybean farmer:

(1) receives an exemption under the National Organic Program (NOP) described in 7 CFR 205; and

(2) operates under an NOP approved organic system plan.

Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "bushel" means sixty (60) pounds of soybeans by weight.

Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "Commodity Credit Corporation" refers to the corporation that administers and issues loans under a price support loan program in exchange for soybeans pledged as collateral.

Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "dean of agriculture" means the dean of agriculture at Purdue University.

Sec. 5. As used in this chapter, "department" refers to the Indiana state department of agriculture established by IC 15-11-2-1.

Sec. 6. As used in this chapter, "first purchase" means a sale of soybeans at the first point of delivery when the soybeans are:

(1) weighed;

(2) graded;

(3) titled; and

(4) transferred to the first purchaser.

Sec. 7. As used in this chapter, "first purchaser" means a person who is engaged in Indiana in the business of buying or acquiring soybeans from a producer or the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Sec. 8. As used in this chapter, "Indiana Soybean Alliance" or "ISA" refers to the Indiana Soybean Alliance, Inc., an Indiana nonprofit corporation incorporated in accordance with the laws of the state of Indiana on July 1, 1997.

Sec. 9. As used in this chapter, "market development" means to:

(1) provide for the development of new or larger domestic and foreign markets for products derived from soybeans; and

(2) access federal government money available to the state to further the market development activities described in subdivision (1).

Sec. 10. As used in this chapter, "marketing year" means the twelve (12) month period beginning October 1 and ending the following September 30.



1       **Sec. 11. As used in this chapter, "net market price" means the**  
 2 **price paid per bushel of soybeans sold after moisture and quality**  
 3 **discounts or premiums, but before any deductions for storage,**  
 4 **handling, drying, inspection, or other services.**

5       **Sec. 12. As used in this chapter, "person" means:**

- 6       (1) an individual;
- 7       (2) a partnership;
- 8       (3) a limited liability company;
- 9       (4) a public or private corporation;
- 10       (5) a political subdivision (as defined in IC 36-1-2-13);
- 11       (6) a cooperative;
- 12       (7) a society;
- 13       (8) an association; or
- 14       (9) a fiduciary.

15       **Sec. 13. As used in this chapter, "producer" means a person**  
 16 **engaged in the business of producing and marketing soybeans in**  
 17 **Indiana under:**

- 18       (1) the producer's own name; or
- 19       (2) the name of an entity in which the producer has
- 20       ownership.

21       **Sec. 14. As used in this chapter, "program" means the Indiana**  
 22 **soybean marketing program established under section 19 of this**  
 23 **chapter.**

24       **Sec. 15. As used in this chapter, "promotion" means:**

- 25       (1) communication directly with soybean producers,
- 26       promoters, purchasers, consumers, and stakeholders;
- 27       (2) technical assistance; and
- 28       (3) trade marketing activities;

29 **to enhance the marketing opportunities of soybeans and any**  
 30 **product derived from soybeans in domestic and foreign markets.**

31       **Sec. 16. As used in this chapter, "research" means a study to**  
 32 **advance the:**

- 33       (1) marketability;
- 34       (2) production;
- 35       (3) product development;
- 36       (4) quality; or
- 37       (5) functional or nutritional value;

38 **of soybeans and any product derived from soybeans, including**  
 39 **research activities designed to identify and analyze barriers to**  
 40 **domestic and foreign sales of soybeans.**

41       **Sec. 17. As used in this chapter, "sale" means:**

- 42       (1) a conveyance of title to soybeans; or



(2) the pledge or other encumbrance of soybeans as security for a loan extended by the Commodity Credit Corporation under a federal price support loan program.

Sec. 18. As used in this chapter, "soybeans" includes all types, varieties, and forms of soybeans grown in Indiana and marketed and sold as soybeans by the producer.

Sec. 19. (a) If this chapter applies as described in section 1 of this chapter, then the Indiana soybean marketing program is established. The ISA shall administer the program as required by this chapter.

(b) The ISA consists of twenty-six (26) voting and at least eight (8) ex officio, nonvoting board members. The elected board members from districts listed under section 22 of this chapter must:

- (1) be registered as voters in Indiana;
- (2) be at least eighteen (18) years of age;
- (3) be producers;
- (4) have an assessment on soybeans under section 28 of this chapter made during the previous two (2) years; and
- (5) not have requested or received a refund of any assessment during the previous two (2) years.

(c) Each elected board member of the ISA must reside in the district identified in section 22 of this chapter from which the board member is elected.

(d) The ISA shall elect a president, a vice president, a secretary, treasurer, and other officers the ISA considers necessary.

(e) A majority of the voting board members of the ISA constitutes a quorum. The affirmative votes of at least a majority of the quorum, and at least fourteen (14) affirmative votes, are required for the ISA to act.

(f) The ISA shall meet at least three (3) times in each marketing year at the call of the president or at the request of two-thirds (2/3) of the board members of the ISA.

(g) Each board member of the ISA who is not a state employee or a member of the general assembly is entitled to reimbursement for mileage, travel expenses, and other expenses actually incurred in connection with the board member's duties in accordance with the ISA's travel policy. Except as provided in section 22 of this chapter, ISA board members are not entitled to a salary or per diem. Reimbursement under this subsection shall be paid from funds of the ISA.

(h) Each board member of the ISA who is a state employee is



entitled to reimbursement for traveling expenses as provided under IC 4-13-1-4 and other expenses actually incurred in connection with the board member's duties as provided in the state policies and procedures established by the Indiana department of administration and approved by the budget agency. Reimbursement under this subsection shall be paid from appropriations made to the department.

**Sec. 20. (a)** The term of office of an elected or appointed ISA board member is three (3) years. A board member's term of office expires at the board meeting after the final marketing year in the term. However, a board member continues in office until a successor who meets the qualifications set forth in section 19 of this chapter is elected or appointed.

**(b)** An elected or appointed ISA board member may not hold office for more than three (3) full terms.

**(c)** Whenever an elected board member's office under section 22(a) of this chapter becomes vacant before the expiration of the board member's term of office, the ISA shall fill the vacancy by appointing a replacement member who meets the qualifications set forth in section 19 of this chapter. The appointee shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

**(d)** Whenever the office of a board member appointed under section 22(b), 22(c), 22(d), or 22(e) of this chapter becomes vacant, the appointing authority who appointed the board member shall fill the vacancy. An appointee under this subsection shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

**Sec. 21. (a)** When necessary, the ISA may appoint individuals who hold offices of importance to the soybean industry or have special expertise concerning the soybean industry to participate in the work of the ISA. These individuals may not participate in votes taken by the ISA but are eligible for reimbursement for traveling expenses in the same manner as ISA board members under section 19(g) of this chapter.

**(b)** A person appointed under this section serves a term of one (1) year but may be reappointed for additional terms.

**Sec. 22. (a)** Six (6) ISA board members shall be elected from each of the following districts:

**DISTRICT 1.** The counties of Benton, Carroll, Cass, Clinton, Elkhart, Fulton, Howard, Jasper, Kosciusko, Lake, LaPorte, Marshall, Miami, Newton, Porter, Pulaski, St. Joseph, Starke, Tipton, Wabash, and White.

**DISTRICT 2.** The counties of Adams, Allen, Blackford,



DeKalb, Delaware, Grant, Henry, Huntington, Jay, LaGrange, Madison, Noble, Randolph, Steuben, Wayne, Wells, and Whitley.

**DISTRICT 3.** The counties of Clay, Daviess, Dubois, Fountain, Gibson, Greene, Knox, Martin, Montgomery, Owen, Parke, Pike, Posey, Putnam, Spencer, Sullivan, Tippecanoe, Vanderburgh, Vermillion, Vigo, Warren, and Warrick.

**DISTRICT 4.** The counties of Bartholomew, Boone, Brown, Clark, Crawford, Dearborn, Decatur, Fayette, Floyd, Franklin, Hamilton, Hancock, Harrison, Hendricks, Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Johnson, Lawrence, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, Ohio, Orange, Perry, Ripley, Rush, Scott, Shelby, Switzerland, Union, and Washington.

(b) The dean of agriculture shall appoint one (1) representative of the largest general farm organization in Indiana, who must be a producer, to serve as a board member of the ISA.

(c) The dean of agriculture shall appoint one (1) representative of any agricultural membership organization in Indiana, who must be a producer, to serve as a board member of the ISA. The representative appointed in accordance with this subsection must represent a different organization than the representative appointed in accordance with subsection (b).

(d) The director shall appoint two (2) representatives of first purchaser organizations to serve as nonvoting ISA board members.

(e) Four (4) board members serve on the ISA, to be appointed as nonvoting board members as follows:

(1) One (1) board member appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate.

(2) One (1) board member appointed by the minority leader of the senate.

(3) One (1) board member appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

(4) One (1) board member appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives.

The board members appointed under this subsection are ex officio nonvoting board members of the ISA. The members of the senate must be of different political parties. The members of the house of representatives must be of different political parties. Each ex officio board member of the ISA who is a member of the general assembly is entitled to receive the same per diem, mileage, and travel allowances paid to legislative members of interim study



committees established by the legislative council. Per diem, mileage, and travel allowances paid under this subsection shall be paid from appropriations made to the legislative council or the legislative services agency.

(f) The dean of agriculture or the dean's designee shall serve as an ex officio, nonvoting ISA board member.

(g) The secretary of agriculture or the secretary's designee shall serve as an ex officio, nonvoting ISA board member.

Sec. 23. (a) An election of an ISA board member shall be held in a district in the year in which the term of the district's ISA board member is to expire.

(b) The ISA shall provide notice to producers of the district of the impending election by:

(1) publishing one (1) or more notices in a statewide agricultural publication; and

(2) making information available to the news media in the district;

four (4) months before the day of the election.

Sec. 24. (a) The ballot for the election of a district ISA board member must include the name of each producer who:

(1) meets the qualifications set forth in section 19 of this chapter; and

(2) files with the ISA a petition in support of candidacy signed by ten (10) other producers who reside in the district.

(b) The ISA shall provide petition forms upon request and shall make petition forms available via the ISA's website. All names on the ballot must be listed in alphabetical order based on the producer's surname.

(c) The ISA shall allow a producer to request a ballot through the ISA's website.

(d) Each ballot submitted by a producer must contain an attestation that the person is an eligible producer.

Sec. 25. The director shall appoint a third party person that shall count all ballots and conduct other activities expressly delegated to it by the director.

Sec. 26. The election of an ISA board member must be conducted by the ISA in a manner designated by the ISA and set forth in the notices required under section 23 of this chapter. The winner of an election takes office at the first meeting after the end of the marketing year.

Sec. 27. The ISA shall do the following:

(1) Employ personnel and contract for services that are





necessary for the proper implementation of this chapter.

(2) Bond the ISA treasurer and such other persons as necessary to ensure adequate protection of funds received and administered by the ISA.

(3) Authorize the expenditure of funds and the contracting of expenditures to conduct proper activities under this chapter.

(4) Annually establish priorities and prepare and approve a budget consistent with the estimated resources of the ISA and the scope of this chapter.

(5) Annually provide:

(A) an activities report to the legislative council in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6; and

(B) an independent audit report to the state board of accounts.

(6) Procure and evaluate data and information necessary for the proper implementation of this chapter.

(7) Formulate and execute assessment procedures and methods of collection.

(8) Receive and investigate complaints and violations of this chapter.

(9) Take necessary enforcement action against individuals who violate this chapter.

(10) Maintain bylaws and operating procedures governing operations of the ISA and the administration of funds collected under this chapter.

(11) Keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements of funds handled by the ISA and have the receipts and disbursements audited annually by a certified public accountant.

(12) Take any other action necessary for the proper implementation of this chapter.

(13) Comply with the requirements under IC 5-14-1.5.

**Sec. 28. (a)** First purchasers shall collect an assessment equal to one-half of one percent (0.5%) of the net market price on all soybeans sold in Indiana and remit to the ISA all assessments collected under this section in the manner prescribed by subsection (f).

**(b)** The first purchaser may only impose and collect an assessment on a quantity of soybeans once.

**(c)** Only the general assembly may change the rate of the assessment imposed by this section.

**(d)** The first purchaser of a quantity of soybeans shall deduct



the assessment on the soybeans from the money to be paid to the producer based on the sale of the soybeans. A first purchaser shall accumulate assessments collected under this section throughout each of the following periods:

- (1) January, February, and March.
- (2) April, May, and June.
- (3) July, August, and September.
- (4) October, November, and December.

(e) Within thirty (30) days after the end of each period, the first purchaser shall remit to the ISA all assessments collected during the period. A first purchaser who remits all assessments collected during a period within thirty (30) days after the end of the period is entitled to retain three percent (3%) of the total of the assessments as a handling fee.

(f) The assessment on the sale of the soybeans must occur at the time of first purchase as the payment for the soybeans is received by the producer.

Sec. 29. (a) The ISA shall pay all expenses incurred under this chapter with money from the assessments remitted to the ISA under this chapter.

(b) The ISA may invest all money the ISA receives under this chapter, including gifts or grants that are given for the express purpose of implementing this chapter, in the same way allowed by law for public funds.

(c) The ISA may expend money from assessments and from investment income not needed for expenses for market development, promotion, and research.

(d) The ISA may not use money received, collected, or accrued under this chapter for any purpose other than the purposes authorized by this chapter. The amount of money expended on administering this chapter in the ISA's fiscal year may not exceed ten percent (10%) of the average amount of assessments, grants, and gifts received by the ISA as calculated under subsection (e).

(e) The ISA shall determine the amount that it may expend to administer this chapter using the following formula:

**STEP ONE:** Determine the amount of assessments, grants, and gifts received by the ISA in each of the preceding five (5) fiscal years beginning with the immediately preceding fiscal year.

**STEP TWO:** Determine the average annual amount of assessments, grants, and gifts received by the ISA in each fiscal year using three (3) of the five (5) fiscal years described



1 in STEP ONE after excluding the two (2) years in which the  
 2 amount of assessments, grants, and gifts received by the ISA  
 3 were the highest and lowest totals.

4 STEP THREE: Divide the amount in STEP TWO by ten (10).  
 5 The amount in STEP THREE is the maximum amount that the ISA  
 6 may expend on administering this chapter for the current fiscal  
 7 year.

8 Sec. 30. (a) Assessments collected by the ISA under the program  
 9 are subject to refund requests by a producer if the producer  
 10 requests a refund pursuant to the procedure established by the  
 11 ISA.

12 (b) A producer's application for a refund under this section  
 13 must be made to the ISA not more than one hundred eighty (180)  
 14 days after the state assessment is deducted from the sale price of  
 15 the producer's soybeans.

16 (c) If a refund is due under this section, the ISA shall remit the  
 17 refund to the producer not later than thirty (30) days after the date  
 18 the producer's completed application and proof of assessment are  
 19 received.

20 Sec. 31. (a) A first purchaser shall keep detailed records of all  
 21 assessments collected and remitted under this chapter for at least  
 22 three (3) years.

23 (b) Upon request, a first purchaser shall supply the ISA with  
 24 any information from records kept under subsection (a).

25 (c) The ISA may periodically audit a first purchaser's checkoff  
 26 assessment and remittance records kept under subsection (a). An  
 27 audit must be conducted by:

- 28 (1) a qualified public accountant of the ISA's choosing; or
- 29 (2) an auditor who is familiar with the:
  - 30 (A) storage;
  - 31 (B) conditioning;
  - 32 (C) shipping; and
  - 33 (D) handling;

34 of agricultural commodities.

35 The costs of the audit shall be paid by the ISA.

36 Sec. 32. (a) If a first purchaser fails to remit the assessments  
 37 collected during a period specified in section 28 of this chapter  
 38 within thirty (30) days after the end of the period, the ISA shall  
 39 contact the first purchaser and allow the first purchaser to present  
 40 comments to the ISA concerning:

- 41 (1) the status and amount of the assessments due; and
- 42 (2) reasons why the ISA should not bring legal action against



1 the first purchaser.

2 (b) After allowing a first purchaser the opportunity to present  
3 comments, the ISA:

4 (1) may adjust the amount of the assessments due, if the first  
5 purchaser's comments reveal that the ISA's figure is  
6 inaccurate;

7 (2) may assess a penalty against the first purchaser;

8 (3) shall:

9 (A) assess a fee for an unpaid assessment due the ISA, from  
10 a person responsible for remitting assessments, at the rate  
11 of two percent (2%) of the amount of the unpaid  
12 assessment each month, beginning with the day following  
13 the date the assessment is due under this subsection; and

14 (B) if there is any remaining amount due after the  
15 assessment of the fee under clause (A), assess a fee at the  
16 same rate on the corresponding day of each month  
17 thereafter until the entire amount of the unpaid assessment  
18 is paid;

19 (4) shall compute the amounts payable on unpaid assessments  
20 under this section monthly and include any unpaid late  
21 charges previously applied under this section; and

22 (5) shall determine the date of a payment for purposes of this  
23 subsection by the postmark applied to the remitting envelope  
24 or the date of the missed assessment.

25 (c) If a first purchaser fails to remit assessments after being  
26 allowed to present comments under subsection (a) or to pay any  
27 penalty assessed under subsection (b), the ISA may bring a civil  
28 action against the first purchaser in a circuit, superior, or  
29 municipal court of any county. The action shall be tried and a  
30 judgment rendered as in any other proceeding for the collection of  
31 a debt. In an action under this subsection, the ISA may obtain:

32 (1) a judgment in the amount of all unremitted assessments  
33 and any unpaid penalty; and

34 (2) an award of the costs of bringing the action.

35 Sec. 33. (a) Proceeds of the checkoff assessment collected by the  
36 ISA under this chapter may not be used to influence legislation or  
37 governmental action or policy.

38 (b) Proceeds of the assessment collected under this chapter may  
39 be used to communicate information related to the:

40 (1) conduct;

41 (2) implementation; or

42 (3) results;



1 of promotion, research, and market development activities to  
2 appropriate government officials.

3 Sec. 34. (a) If a person fails to discharge a duty imposed by this  
4 chapter other than remitted assessments, the ISA shall allow the  
5 person an opportunity to present comments to the ISA concerning  
6 reasons why the ISA should not bring legal action against the  
7 person.

8 (b) If it is necessary to obtain compliance with this chapter, the  
9 ISA may bring an action against the person in a circuit, superior,  
10 or municipal court of any county seeking an injunction mandating  
11 compliance and any other appropriate legal remedies.

12 (c) In an action under this section, the ISA may be granted  
13 injunctive relief without establishing the absence of an adequate  
14 remedy at law.

