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SENATE BILL No. 224

Proposed Changes to January 27, 2026 printing by AM022409

DIGEST OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Natural resources. Removes various definitions. Makes various changes to: (1) the department of natural resources (department) powers and duties; and (2) the natural resources commission procedures. Removes coordination between the Indiana natural resources foundation and the President Benjamin Harrison conservation trust program. Provides expiration terms for an archeology plan or development plan authorized by the division of historic preservation and archeology. Creates additional requirements for development plans. Repeals the game bird and exotic mammal provisions. Replaces "wildlife" with "wild animal" throughout IC 14-22-34. Permits the department to immediately remove certain low head dams to provide emergency protection to life or property. Makes conforming changes.

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 14-8-1-1 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
2 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. Except as otherwise
3 provided, the definitions in this article apply throughout this title **and**
4 **312 IAC.**

5 SECTION 2. IC 14-8-2-57 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
6 2026]. See: 57. "Corporation", for purposes of IC 14-12-3, has the
7 meaning set forth in IC 14-12-3-1.

8 SECTION 3. IC 14-8-2-107, AS AMENDED BY P.L.127-2022,
9 SECTION 7, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
10 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 107. "Fund" has the following meaning:

11 (1) For purposes of IC 14-9-5, the meaning set forth in
12 IC 14-9-5-1.
13 (2) For purposes of IC 14-9-8-21, the meaning set forth in

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1 IC 14-9-8-21.

2 (3) For purposes of IC 14-9-8-21.5, the meaning set forth in

3 IC 14-9-8-21.5.

4 (4) For purposes of IC 14-9-9, the meaning set forth in

5 IC 14-9-9-3.

6 (5) For purposes of IC 14-12-1, the meaning set forth in

7 IC 14-12-1-1.

8 (6) For purposes of IC 14-12-2, the meaning set forth in

9 IC 14-12-2-2.

10 ~~(7) For purposes of IC 14-12-3, the meaning set forth in~~

11 ~~IC 14-12-3-2.~~

12 ~~(8) (7) For purposes of IC 14-13-1, the meaning set forth in~~

13 ~~IC 14-13-1-2.~~

14 ~~(9) (8) For purposes of IC 14-13-2, the meaning set forth in~~

15 ~~IC 14-13-2-3.~~

16 ~~(10) (9) For purposes of IC 14-16-1, the meaning set forth in~~

17 ~~IC 14-16-1-30.~~

18 ~~(11) (10) For purposes of IC 14-19-8, the meaning set forth in~~

19 ~~IC 14-19-8-1.~~

20 ~~(12) (11) For purposes of IC 14-19-11, the meaning set forth in~~

21 ~~IC 14-19-11-3-1.~~

22 ~~(13) (12) For purposes of IC 14-20-11, the meaning set forth in~~

23 ~~IC 14-20-11-2.~~

24 ~~(14) (13) For purposes of IC 14-22-3, the meaning set forth in~~

25 ~~IC 14-22-3-1.~~

26 ~~(15) (14) For purposes of IC 14-22-4, the meaning set forth in~~

27 ~~IC 14-22-4-1.~~

28 ~~(16) (15) For purposes of IC 14-22-5, the meaning set forth in~~

29 ~~IC 14-22-5-1.~~

30 ~~(17) (16) For purposes of IC 14-22-8, the meaning set forth in~~

31 ~~IC 14-22-8-1.~~

32 ~~(18) (17) For purposes of IC 14-22-34, the meaning set forth in~~

33 ~~IC 14-22-34-2.~~

34 ~~(19) (18) For purposes of IC 14-23-3, the meaning set forth in~~

35 ~~IC 14-23-3-1.~~

36 ~~(20) (19) For purposes of IC 14-25-2-4, the meaning set forth in~~

37 ~~IC 14-25-2-4.~~

38 ~~(21) (20) For purposes of IC 14-25-10, the meaning set forth in~~

39 ~~IC 14-25-10-1.~~

40 ~~(22) (21) For purposes of IC 14-25.5, the meaning set forth in~~

41 ~~IC 14-25.5-1-3.~~

42 ~~(23) (22) For purposes of IC 14-31-2, the meaning set forth in~~

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1 IC 14-31-2-5.

2 (24) (23) For purposes of IC 14-25-12, the meaning set forth in

3 IC 14-25-12-1.

4 (25) (24) For purposes of IC 14-32-8, the meaning set forth in

5 IC 14-32-8-1.

6 (26) (25) For purposes of IC 14-33-14, the meaning set forth in

7 IC 14-33-14-3.

8 (27) (26) For purposes of IC 14-33-21, the meaning set forth in

9 IC 14-33-21-1.

10 (28) (27) For purposes of IC 14-34-6-15, the meaning set forth

11 in IC 14-34-6-15.

12 (29) (28) For purposes of IC 14-34-14, the meaning set forth in

13 IC 14-34-14-1.

14 (30) (29) For purposes of IC 14-34-19-1.3, the meaning set forth

15 in IC 14-34-19-1.3(a).

16 (31) (30) For purposes of IC 14-34-19-1.5, the meaning set forth

17 in IC 14-34-19-1.5(a).

18 (32) (31) For purposes of IC 14-37-10, the meaning set forth in

19 IC 14-37-10-1.

[SECTION 4. IC 14-8-2-152 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. Sec. 152. "License" has the following meaning:]

26 1 SECTION ~~44~~⁵[5]. IC 14-8-2-170 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE
27 JULY 1, 2026]. See: 170. "Municipal corporation", for purposes of
28 ~~IC 14-12-3~~, has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 14-12-3-3~~.

29 SECTION ~~leftrightarrow~~ [6]. IC 14-8-2-216 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
30 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 216. (a) "Program", for
31 purposes of IC 14-12-3, has the meaning set forth in IC 14-12-3-4.

(b) (a) "Program", for purposes of IC 14-23-6.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 14-23-6.5-1.

36 SECTION ~~↔~~7. IC 14-8-2-320 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
37 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 320. "Wildlife"[,]
38 ~~the~~the following ~~mean~~mean

38 has the following meaning. (1) For purposes of IC 14-22, except as
39 provided in subdivision (2), means all wild birds,
40 fish, crustaceans, mollusks, amphibians, reptiles, and wild
41 mammals.
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1 ~~(2) For purposes of IC 14-22-34, IC 14-22-34, the meaning set forth in IC 14-22-34-6.~~

2 ~~SECTION 7. IC 14-22-34-6.~~

3 SECTION 8. IC 14-8-4 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS

4 A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY

5 1, 2026]:

6 Chapter 4. Applicability

7 Sec. 1. The department is the successor to:

- (1) the department of conservation;
- (2) any prior name given to a similar state agency that now falls under the department's jurisdiction; and
- (3) any agency incorporated into the department.

8 If the department is a successor to an agency under this section, the

9 department becomes responsible for and benefits from the

10 contractual obligations of that agency.

11 Sec. 2. The department may grant easements on properties

12 owned or managed by the department.

13 SECTION 9. IC 14-10-1-7 IS AMENDED TO READ AS

14 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7. (a) The commission

15 shall have at least four (4) regular meetings in each fiscal year and as

16 many additional or special meetings as the commission's business,

17 powers, or duties require.

18 (b) The chairman:

- (1) may call a special meeting; and
- (2) shall call a special meeting at the request of any five (5)

19 members.

20 (c) A:

- (1) meeting of the commission; or
- (2) public hearing;

21 is subject to IC 5-14-1.5.

22 SECTION ~~8~~[10]. IC 14-10-2-9 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA

23 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS

24 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 9. (a) A person who wishes to

25 obtain judicial review of a final agency action under this title must

26 serve copies of a petition for judicial review upon:

- (1) each person described in IC 4-21.5-5-8; and

- (2) the following persons under IC 4-21.5-5-8(a)(4):

27 (A) If the department or the state historic preservation

28 review board is a party to a proceeding, a copy of the

29 petition required under IC 4-21.5-5-8(a)(4) must be

30 served upon the department or state historic

31 preservation review board, as applicable, to the address

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1 published on the website of the department.

2 (B) If the Indiana board of licensure for professional
 3 geologists is a party to a proceeding, a copy of the
 4 petition required under IC 4-21.5-8(a)(4) must be
 5 served upon the Indiana board of licensure for
 6 professional geologists at the address published on the
 7 website of the state geologist.

8 (C) If the Indiana board of registration for soil scientists
 9 is a party to a proceeding, a copy of the petition
 10 required under IC 4-21.5-8(a)(4) must be served upon
 11 the Indiana board of registration for soil scientists to the
 12 address published on the website of the office of the state
 13 chemist.

14 (b) The following agencies shall publish their office address on
 15 their official website so a person may serve copies of judicial
 16 review:

17 (1) The department.

18 (2) The state geologist.

19 (3) The office of the state chemist.

20 SECTION ~~←⑨~~[11], IC 14-11-2-1, AS AMENDED BY
 21 P.L.246-2005, SECTION 116, IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 22 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) The department
 23 may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 for the conduct of the following:

24 (1) Department meetings.

25 (2) Upon the recommendation of the director, the work of the
 26 department and the divisions.

27 (b) The department may not adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 for the
 28 establishment of fees for the following:

29 (1) Programs of the department or the commission.

30 (2) Facilities owned or operated by the department or the
 31 commission or a lessee of the department or commission.

32 (3) Licenses issued by the commission, the department, or the
 33 director.

34 (4) Inspections or other similar services under this title
 35 performed by the department or an assistant or employee of the
 36 department.

37 (c) The director shall:

38 (1) adopt provisional rules under IC 4-22-2-37.1;

39 (2) adopt interim rules under IC 4-22-2-37.2; and

40 (3) approve for preliminary adoption rules for readoption
 41 under IC 4-22-2.6 that do not contain changes to the rules.

42 SECTION 1~~←⑩~~[2], IC 14-11-2-2 IS AMENDED TO READ AS

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1 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. A person who
 2 violates a rule adopted under this chapter commits a Class C infraction,
 3 **unless otherwise specified by law.**

4 [SECTION 13. IC 14-11-3-1 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY
 5 1, 2026]. See: 1. (a) As used in this section, "license" means a license;
 6 a franchise; a permit; a certification; an approval; a registration; a
 7 charter; or a similar form of authorization that may be issued to a
 8 person by:

9 (1) the department;
 10 (2) the commission; or
 11 (3) the director;

12 under Indiana law. The term does not include a license issued by the
 13 historic preservation review board established by IC 14-21-1-20.

14 (b) Notwithstanding any other law, the director shall issue all
 15 licenses.

16 (c) A designee of the director may issue licenses. A designee of
 17 the director must be a full-time employee of the department.

18 [SECTION 14-11-4-1, AS AMENDED BY
 19 P.L.89-2016, SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 20 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. This chapter applies to
 21 applications for licenses under the following:

22 (1) IC 14-26-2 (lake preservation).
 23 (2) IC 14-26-5 (dams). **(lowering of Ten Acre Lake).**
 24 (3) IC 14-27 (levees, dams, and drainage).
 25 (3) (4) IC 14-28-1 (flood control).
 26 (5) **IC 14-29-1 (navigable waterways).**
 27 (4) (6) IC 14-29-3 (removal of substances from streams). (sand
 28 and gravel permits).
 29 (5) (7) IC 14-29-4 (construction of channels).

30 [SECTION 15. IC 14-11-4-3 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY
 31 1, 2026]. See: 3. As used in this chapter, "license" means a permit, a
 32 license; a concession; or other authorization that may be issued to a
 33 person by:

34 (1) the director;
 35 (2) the department; or
 36 (3) the commission;

37 under Indiana law.

38 SECTION 16. IC 14-11-4-4 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 39 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. (a) The director or
 40 the department may not issue a license until thirty (30) days after the
 41 notice required by this chapter has been is given to a person specified
 42 under section 5 of this chapter by the applicant.

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1 **(b) An applicant may provide the notice may be given under**
 2 **subsection (a) at any time after an application for a license is filed with**
 3 **the department. The department may require by rule that notice under**
 4 **section 5 of this chapter be provided by the license applicant.**

5 **SECTION 17. IC 14-12-2-32 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY**
 6 **1, 2026]. See. 32. Expenditures from the fund shall be coordinated with**
 7 **expenditures by the foundation from the Indiana natural resources fund**
 8 **established by IC 14-12-1-11.**

9 1 SECTION 1~~↔~~[8]. IC 14-12-3 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE
 10 JULY 1, 2026]. (Hometown Indiana Grant Program).

11 SECTION 1~~↔~~[9]. IC 14-15-3-19 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 12 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 19. Provisions of this
 13 chapter concerning the operation of boats or motorboats apply as
 14 follows:

15 (1) Whether or not the boat or motorboat is towing a ~~water ski, a watersled, an aquaplane, or a similar object, including a person on the water ski, watersled, aquaplane, or similar~~ any object.

16 (2) To each object and person.

17 SECTION ~~↔~~[20]. IC 14-15-3-20 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 18 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 20. A person operating
 19 a motorboat may not tow a water ski, a watersled, a **wakeboard, barefoot water skis, an aquaplane, or a similar object, including a person on the waterski, watersled, wakeboard, barefoot water skis, aquaplane, or similar object, unless:**

20 (1) the motorboat is occupied by at least one (1) other person
 21 who is giving the person's entire attention to watching the object, **wakeboard, or person towed;** and

22 (2) the person operating the boat is giving the person's entire
 23 attention to the operation of the boat.

24 SECTION ~~↔~~[21]. IC 14-15-4-2, AS AMENDED BY
 25 P.L.111-2016, SECTION 11, IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 26 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) The operator of
 27 a boat involved in an accident or a collision ~~resulting in:~~ shall provide
 28 **the information required under subsection (b) if the following**
 29 **conditions occur:**

30 (1) Injury to or death of a person. or

31 (2) Damage to a boat or other property to an apparent extent of
 32 at least **the greater of:** seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750);

33 **shall provide the information required under subsection (b):**

34 (A) **two thousand dollars (\$2,000); or**

35 (B) **the amount for assessed damage under the United**
 36 **States Department of Homeland Security Boating**

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Accident Report Database (BARD).

(b) An operator of a boat subject to subsection (a) shall do the following:

(1) Give notice of the accident to:

(A) the office of the sheriff of the county;

(B) the nearest state police post; or

(C) the central dispatch center for the law enforcement division of the department;

immediately and by the quickest means of communication.

(2) Mail to the department a written report of the accident or collision within twenty-four (24) hours of the accident or collision.

SECTION ~~16~~22. IC 14-16-1-24 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 24. (a) The operator of a vehicle involved in an accident resulting in serious bodily injury to or death of an individual or property damage in an estimated amount of at least ~~seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750)~~ **two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500)** shall immediately, by the quickest means of communication, notify at least one (1) of the following:

(1) A state police officer or conservation officer.

(2) The sheriff's office of the county where the accident occurred.

(3) The office of the police department of the municipality where the accident occurred.

(b) The police agency receiving the notice shall do the following:

(1) Complete a report of the accident on forms prescribed by the director.

(2) Forward the report to the director

[SECTION 23. IC 14-21-1-25, AS AMENDED BY P.L.26-2008, SECTION 6, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 25. (a) The commission shall adopt rules establishing standards for plans;

(b) With respect to archeological plans, the rules must impose a standard of conduct that does the following:

(+) Promotes the scientific investigation and conservation of past cultures

(2) Considers the interests and expertise of amateur archaeologists and professional archaeologists.

(c) With respect to development plans, the rules must impose a standard of conduct that preserves and protects both of the following:

(1) The rights and interests of landowners

(1) The rights and interests of landowners.
(2) The sensitivity of human beings for treating human remains

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with respect and dignity, as determined by the commission.

(d) Subject to subsection (e), plans required under this chapter must be submitted to the department for approval according to rules adopted by the commission:

(e) (a) Proposed archeological plans and development plans
submitted to the department must be:

(1) approved;

(2) approved with conditions:

(2) (3) denied; or

(3) (4) held because of the need for additional information:

by the department not more than sixty (60) days after the date of submission. If the department does not take any action on the plan within the time required by this subsection, the plan is considered to be approved, unless approval is prohibited under a state or federal law. If the department requests additional information under subdivision (3), (4), the department shall inform the applicant if the plan is deemed incomplete, inaccurate, or both, and provide the applicant an opportunity to cure any issues. The department shall approve or deny the resubmitted plan not more than thirty (30) days after the resubmitted plan additional information is received.

(b) Unless otherwise specified in the authorization:

(1) an approved archeology plan expires one (1) year; and

(2) an approved development plan expires two (2) years;

after issuance by the division.

(c) An applicant must comply with:

(1) any other federal, state, or local laws and ordinances;

(2) 312 IAC 21; and

(2) 312 IAC 21,

(d) If the division issues written approval, an applicant may modify the authorized project activities

modify the authorized project activities.

1 SECTION ~~27~~²⁷[24]. IC 14-21-1-25.1 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 25.1. **An application for approval of a development plan under section 26.5 of this chapter must be filed with the division and include the following:**

(1) A signed cover letter from the applicant on letterhead with the following information:

(A) The identity of the person who will conduct the project.

(B) The overall nature and time frame of the project

(B) The overall nature and time frame of the project.
(C) The location of the project by section, township

(C) The location of the property, including the range, county, and address.

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(D) Information regarding any prior disturbance to the area.

(E) A statement regarding whether federal or state funds or licenses are involved in the project.

(2) Mapping to show the location of the burial ground or cemetery in relation to the project that includes the following:

(A) Construction details for any activity within one hundred (100) feet of the burial ground or cemetery.

(B) References to nearby landmarks.

(C) The location of the burial ground or cemetery and the project area on the appropriate U.S. Geological Survey U.S. TOPO: Maps for America.

(3) A description of the burial ground or cemetery sufficient to evaluate the likely impact of the project, including the following:

(A) Any name of the burial ground or cemetery.

(B) The dates the burial ground or cemetery has been used.

(C) Historical information and documentation.

(D) Precise boundaries that reference nearby landmarks. If documentation is not available to identify the burial ground or cemetery boundaries, the applicant may be required to determine those boundaries through the following:

(i) Remote sensing.

(ii) Investigations by archeologists.

(iii) Another scientific method approved by the division.

(E) The physical condition of the burial ground or cemetery.

(4) A description of the grounds adjacent to and within one hundred (100) feet of the burial ground or cemetery, including the following:

(A) The nature, depth, and degree of previous disturbances, including those caused by:

(i) construction;

(ii) excavation;

(iii) grading; or

(iv) filling.

(B) A description of soil, by type, present at the site, including an explanation of how the soil would be:

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(i) disturbed;
(ii) graded;
(iii) modified;
(iv) removed; or
(v) otherwise treated.

(C) A description of each structure.

(D) A description of the activities anticipated to:

- (i) erect;
- (ii) alter; or
- (iii) repair;

a structure.

(E) Each area that may contain new construction in connection with the proposed construction areas.

(5) Recent photographs of the burial ground or cemetery and the grounds adjacent to and within one hundred (100) feet of the burial ground or cemetery.

SECTION ~~25~~ [25]. IC 14-21-1-25.5 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. See: 25.5. (a) If a Native American Indian burial ground is discovered, the department shall immediately provide notice to the Native American Indian affairs commission established by IC 4-23-32.

(b) If Native American Indian human remains are removed from a burial ground, the department shall provide the following to the Native American Indian affairs commission:

- (1) Any written findings or reports that result from the analysis and study of the human remains.
- (2) Written notice to the Native American Indian affairs commission that the analysis and study of the human remains are complete.

(c) After receiving written notice under subsection (b)(2), the Native American Indian affairs commission shall make recommendations to the department regarding the final disposition of the Native American Indian human remains.

[SECTION 26. IC 14-21-1-26.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.158-2013, SECTION 201, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 26.5. (a) Notwithstanding IC 23-14-44-1, this section does not apply to the following:

- (1) A public utility (as defined in IC 8-1-2-1(a)).
- (2) A corporation organized under IC 8-1-13.
- (3) A municipally owned utility (as defined in IC 8-1-2-1(h)).
- (4) A surface coal mining and reclamation operation permitted

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1 under IC 14-34.

2 (b) Except as provided in this subsection and subsections (c) and
 3 (d), a person may not disturb the ground within one hundred (100) feet
 4 of a burial ground for the purpose of excavating or covering over the
 5 ground or erecting, altering, or repairing any structure without having
 6 a development plan approved by the department under section 25 of
 7 this chapter or in violation of a development plan approved by the
 8 department under section 25 of this chapter. The department must
 9 review the development plan as required by section 25(e) 25(a) of this
 10 chapter.

11 (c) A development plan:

12 (1) must be approved if a person intends to:
 13 (A) excavate or cover over the ground; or
 14 (B) construct a new structure or alter or repair an existing
 15 structure;

16 that would impact the burial ground or cemetery; and

17 (2) is not required if a person intends to:

18 (A) excavate or cover over the ground; or
 19 (B) erect, alter, or repair an existing structure;

20 for an incidental or existing use that would not impact the burial
 21 ground or cemetery.

22 (d) A development plan for a governmental entity to disturb
 23 ground within one hundred (100) feet of a burial ground must be
 24 approved as follows:

25 (1) A development plan of a municipality requires approval of
 26 the executive of the municipality and does not require the
 27 approval of the department. However, if the burial ground or
 28 cemetery is located outside the municipality, approval is also
 29 required by the executive of the county where the burial ground
 30 or cemetery is located. A county cemetery commission
 31 established under IC 23-14-67-2 may advise the executive of the
 32 municipality on whether to approve a development plan.

33 (2) A development plan of a governmental entity other than:

34 (A) a municipality; or
 35 (B) the state;

36 requires the approval of the executive of the county where the
 37 governmental entity is located and does not require the approval
 38 of the department. However, if the governmental entity is located
 39 in more than one (1) county, only the approval of the executive
 40 of the county where the burial ground or cemetery is located is
 41 required. A county cemetery commission established under
 42 IC 23-14-67-2 may advise the county executive on whether to

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1 approve a development plan.

2 (3) A development plan of the state requires the approval of the

3 department.

4 (e) If a burial ground is within an archeological site, an

5 archeological plan is required to be part of the development plan.

6 (f) A person who recklessly, knowingly, or intentionally violates

7 this section commits a Class A misdemeanor. However, the offense is

8 a Level 6 felony if the person disturbs buried human remains or grave

9 markers while committing the offense.

10 **(g) An applicant must comply with:**

11 **(1) any federal, state, or local law or ordinance;**

12 **(2) 312 IAC 21; and**

13 **(3) 312 IAC 22.**

14 **(h) An applicant may modify the project activities authorized**

15 **by the division only upon written approval by the division.**

16 SECTION 27. IC 14-21-1-31 IS AMENDED TO READ AS

17 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 31. (a) The commission

18 shall may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to implement this chapter.

19 (b) When adopting rules under this chapter The commission shall

20 may consider the following when adopting rules under this chapter:

21 (1) The rights and interests of landowners.

22 (2) The sensitivity of human beings for treating human remains

23 with respect and dignity.

24 (3) The value of history and archeology as a guide to human

25 activity.

26 (4) The importance of amateur archeologists in making

27 historical, cultural, and archeological discoveries.

28 (5) Applicable laws, standards, and guidelines for the conduct of

29 archeology and codes of ethics for participation in archeology.

30 1. SECTION ~~49~~[28]. IC 14-22-6-4, AS AMENDED BY

31 P.L.144-2022, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS

32 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. (a) For purposes of this section,

33 a trap is designed to capture and kill a furbearing animal if the animal's

34 death is the result of:

35 (1) submerging the animal in water; or

36 (2) crushing or asphyxiating the animal.

37 (b) A person may not do the following:

38 (1) Tend or visit a trap or remove a furbearing animal from a trap

39 that is not the person's property without the permission of the

40 owner.

41 (2) For a trap that is designed to capture but not kill a furbearing

42 animal:

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3 a trap that is the person's property within a period not exceeding
4 twenty-four (24) hours.

15 SECTION 2-~~0~~9. IC 14-22-10-2, AS AMENDED BY
16 P.L.113-2019, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
17 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) As used in this section and
18 section 2.5 of this chapter, "governmental entity" means any of the
19 following:

20 (1) The government of the United States of America.

21 (2) The state.

22 (3) A county.

23 (4) A city.

24 (5) A town.

25 (6) A townsh

26 (7) The following, if created by the Constitution of the United
27 States, the Constitution of the State of Indiana, a statute, an
28 ordinance, a rule, or an order:

29 (A) An agency.

30 (B) A board.

31 (C) A commission.

32 (D) A committee.

33 (E) A council.

34 (F) A department.

35 (G) A district.

36 (H) A public body corporate and politic.

37 (b) As used in this section and section 2.5 of this chapter,
38 "monetary consideration" means a fee or other charge for permission
39 to go upon a tract of land. The term does not include:

40 (1) the gratuitous sharing of game, fish, or other products of the
41 recreational use of the land;

42 (2) services rendered for the purpose of wildlife management; or

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1 (3) contributions in kind made for the purpose of wildlife
2 management.

(c) As used in this section and section 2.5 of this chapter, "owner" means a governmental entity or another person that:

5 (1) has a fee interest in;
6 (2) is a tenant, a lessee, or an occupant of; or
7 (2) is in control of;

(3) is in
a tract of land

8 a tract of land.
9 (d) A person who goes upon or through the premises, including
10 caves, of another:

10 caves, or another:
11 (1) with or without permission; and
12 (2) either:

12 (2) either:

13 (A) without the payment of monetary consideration; or

14 (B) with the payment of monetary consideration directly or

15 indirectly on the person's behalf by an agency of the state or

16 federal government:

for the purpose of swimming, camping, hiking, sightseeing, **exercising, cycling**, or accessing or departing from a trail, a greenway, or another similar area, or for any other purpose (other than the purposes described in section 2.5 of this chapter) does not have an assurance that the premises are safe for the purpose: is subject to the limitations of liability granted to the owner of the premises described in subsection (e).

24 (e) The owner of the premises does not
25 ~~(+) assume responsibility, or~~
26 ~~(+) incur liability.~~

26 (2) incur liability,
27 for an injury to a person or property caused by an act or failure to act
28 of other persons using the premises: assume responsibility or incur
29 liability for an injury or damage to a:

30 (1) person caused by:

31 (A) an act; or

32 (B) the failure to act;

33 of another person using the premises;

34 (2) person caused by a condition on the land; or

35 (3) person's property caused by:

38 (f) This section does not affect the following:

(1) Existing Indiana case law on the liability of owners or possessors of premises with respect to the following:

41 (A) Business invitees in commercial establishments.
42 (B) Invited guests:



1 species" means any species or subspecies of **wildlife a wild animal**
 2 whose prospects of survival or recruitment within Indiana are in
 3 jeopardy or are likely within the foreseeable future to become so due
 4 to any of the following factors:

- 5 (1) The destruction, drastic modification, or severe curtailment
 6 of the habitat of the **wildlife wild animal**.
- 7 (2) The overutilization of the **wildlife wild animal** for scientific,
 8 commercial, or sporting purposes.
- 9 (3) The effect on the **wildlife wild animal** of disease, pollution,
 10 or predation.
- 11 (4) Other natural or manmade factors affecting the prospects of
 12 survival or recruitment within Indiana.
- 13 (5) Any combination of the factors described in subdivisions (1)
 14 through (4).

15 (b) The term includes any species or subspecies of fish and
 16 **wildlife wild animals** appearing on the United States list of endangered
 17 and threatened **wildlife wild animals** (50 CFR 17.11).

18 SECTION 34. IC 14-22-34-3 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 19 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) As used in this
 20 chapter, "management" means the collection and application of
 21 biological information for the purposes of increasing the number of
 22 individuals within species and populations of **wildlife wild animals** up
 23 to the optimum carrying capacity of their habitat and maintaining those
 24 levels.

25 (b) The term includes the following:

- 26 (1) The entire range of activities that constitute a modern
 27 scientific resource program, including research, census, law
 28 enforcement, habitat acquisition and improvement, and
 29 education.
- 30 (2) When and where appropriate, the periodic or total protection
 31 of species or populations as well as regulated taking.

32 SECTION 35. IC 14-22-34-5 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 33 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. As used in this
 34 chapter, "take" means to:

- 35 (1) harass, hunt, capture, or kill; or
- 36 (2) attempt to harass, hunt, capture, or kill;

37 **wildlife. a wild animal.**

38 SECTION 36. IC 14-22-34-6 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY
 39 1, 2026]. Sec. 6. As used in this chapter, "wildlife" means:
 40 (1) any wild mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, fish, mollusk,
 41 crustacean, or other wild animal; or
 42 (2) any part, product, egg or offspring, or the dead body or parts

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1 of the wild animal:

2 SECTION 37. IC 14-22-34-10 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 3 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10. On the basis of:

4 (1) investigations on nongame species required by section 7 of
 5 this chapter; and

6 (2) other available scientific and commercial data;

7 and after consultation with other state **wildlife wild animal** agencies,
 8 appropriate federal agencies, and other interested persons and
 9 organizations, the director shall adopt rules to propose a list of those
 10 species and subspecies of **wildlife wild animals** indigenous to Indiana
 11 that are determined to be endangered in Indiana, giving the common
 12 and scientific names by species and subspecies.

13 SECTION 38. IC 14-22-34-12 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 14 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 12. (a) Except as
 15 otherwise provided in this chapter, a person may not take, possess,
 16 transport, export, process, sell or offer for sale, or ship, and a common
 17 or contract carrier may not knowingly transport or receive for shipment
 18 a species or subspecies of **wildlife wild animals** appearing on any of
 19 the following:

20 (1) The list of **wildlife wild animals** indigenous to Indiana
 21 determined to be endangered in Indiana under this chapter.

22 (2) The United States list of endangered **wildlife wild animals**
 23 (50 CFR 17.11) as in effect on January 1, 1979.

24 (3) The list of endangered species developed under section 13 of
 25 this chapter.

26 (b) A species or subspecies of **wildlife wild animals** appearing on
 27 a list described in subsection (a) that:

28 (1) enters Indiana from another state or from a point outside the
 29 territorial limits of the United States; and

30 (2) is transported across Indiana destined for a point beyond
 31 Indiana;

32 may be so entered and transported without restriction in accordance
 33 with the terms of a federal permit or permit issued under the laws of
 34 another state.

35 (c) A person who:

36 (1) violates subsection (a) or (b); or

37 (2) fails to procure or violates the terms of a permit issued under:

38 (A) section 15 of this chapter; or

39 (B) section 16 of this chapter;

40 commits a Class A misdemeanor.

41 SECTION 39. IC 14-22-34-15 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 42 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 15. The director may

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1 permit, under the terms and conditions that are prescribed by rule, the
 2 taking, possession, transportation, exportation, or shipment of species
 3 or subspecies of **wildlife wild animals** that have been designated by
 4 rule as in need of management or appear on the:

5 (1) state list of endangered species;
 6 (2) United States list of endangered native fish and wildlife, as
 7 amended;
 8 (3) list of **wildlife wild animals** added under section 13 of this
 9 chapter; or
 10 (4) United States list of endangered foreign fish and **wildlife**,
 11 **wild animals**, as modified after July 26, 1973;
 12 for scientific, zoological, or educational purposes, for propagation in
 13 captivity of the **wildlife, wild animals**, or for other special purposes.

14 SECTION 40. IC 14-22-34-18 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 15 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 18. The provisions of
 16 this chapter prohibiting the taking, possessing, transportation,
 17 exporting, processing, sale, or offer to sell do not apply to **wildlife wild**
 18 **animals** in the possession of a person in Indiana on July 26, 1973.

19 SECTION 41. IC 14-22-34-20 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 20 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 20. (a) The nongame
 21 fund is established as a dedicated fund.

22 (b) The department shall administer the fund.

23 (c) In recognition of the importance of preserving the natural
 24 heritage of Indiana, it is the intent of the general assembly to provide
 25 a fund to be used exclusively for the protection, conservation,
 26 management, and identification of nongame and endangered species of
 27 **wildlife wild animals** primarily through the acquisition of the natural
 28 habitat of the animals. The department may expend the money in the
 29 fund exclusively for the preservation of nongame and endangered
 30 species of **wildlife wild animals** under this chapter.

31 (d) Money in the fund does not revert to the state general fund at
 32 the end of a state fiscal year. However, if the fund is abolished, the
 33 money in the fund reverts to the state general fund.

34 SECTION 42]. IC 14-23-6.6-7, AS ADDED BY P.L.124-2025,
 35 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 36 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7. (a) Subject to subsection (b), a certified
 37 prescribed burn manager who conducts the prescribed burning in
 38 accordance with section 6 of this chapter is immune from civil liability
 39 for harm caused by the:

40 (1) prescribed burn; or

41 (2) smoke produced by the prescribed burn.

42 (b) The immunity described in subsection (a) does not apply if the

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1 harm was the result of the certified prescribed burn manager's:
 2 (1) negligence; or
 3 (2) willful and wanton misconduct.
 4 (c) Subject to subsection (d), a landowner or landowner's agent
 5 who conducts prescribed burning on the landowner's property in
 6 accordance with section 6 of this chapter is immune from civil liability
 7 for harm caused by the:
 8 (1) prescribed burn; or
 9 (2) smoke produced by the prescribed burn.
 10 (d) The immunity described in subsection (c) does not apply if the
 11 harm was the result of the:
 12 (1) negligence of the landowner or the landowner's agent; or
 13 (2) willful and wanton misconduct of the landowner or the
 14 landowner's agent.
 15 (e) The ~~division of forestry's department's~~ officers, agents, and
 16 employees are immune from civil liability, in accordance with
 17 IC 34-13-3, arising out of any of the following:
 18 (1) Participation in planning, undertaking, or assisting with
 19 prescribed burning.
 20 (2) Administration of the prescribed burn certification program,
 21 including revocation of prescribed burn certifications issued
 22 under the program.

23 [SECTION 43. IC 14-27-7.3-3.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
 24 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 25 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3.5. (a) If the condition of a
 26 structure regulated by this chapter becomes so dangerous to the
 27 safety of life or property that the department determines there is
 28 not sufficient time to issue and enforce an order to:

- (1) maintain;
- (2) alter;
- (3) repair;
- (4) reconstruct;
- (5) change the construction or location; or
- (6) remove the structure;

35 in the manner required by this chapter, then the department may
 36 immediately take the measures necessary to provide emergency
 37 protection to life or property, or both, including the partial or
 38 complete removal of the structure.

39 (b) The department may recover the cost of the emergency
 40 measures taken under this section from the owner of the structure
 41 by appropriate legal action.

42 [SECTION ~~24~~[44]. IC 14-30-3-16 IS AMENDED TO READ AS

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1 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 16. (a) The
 2 commission, **in coordination with the department**, shall keep a
 3 record of the commission's resolutions, transactions, and findings. This
 4 record is a public record.

5 (b) The commission may adopt rules for the transaction of
 6 business.

7 SECTION ~~25~~[45]. IC 14-30.5-2-2, AS AMENDED BY
 8 P.L.92-2025, SECTION 50, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 9 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) If one (1) county executive
 10 submits an ordinance and a written request for recognition of a
 11 proposed watershed development commission under section 1(c) of this
 12 chapter, the natural resources commission shall decide under
 13 subsections (c) through (e) whether to recognize the proposed
 14 commission.

15 (b) If the county executives of two (2) or more counties submit
 16 ordinances and written requests under section 1(c) of this chapter for
 17 recognition of a single proposed watershed development commission
 18 empowered to act in a single designated watershed that includes areas
 19 within both or all of the counties:

20 (1) the natural resources commission may not decide whether to
 21 recognize the proposed commission unless the provisions of the
 22 ordinances submitted under section 1(c)(1) of this chapter are
 23 essentially identical in:

24 (A) identifying the designated watershed; and

25 (B) stating the purposes of the proposed commission; and

26 (2) if the natural resources commission determines that the
 27 requirement set forth in subdivision (1) is met, the natural
 28 resources commission shall decide under subsections (c) through
 29 (e) whether to recognize the proposed commission.

30 (c) Before making a decision whether to recognize a proposed
 31 commission under this section, the **division of water, on behalf of the**[1]
 32 natural resources commission, shall hold at least one (1) public
 33 hearing concerning the proposed commission in each county whose
 34 executive submitted an ordinance and a written request for recognition
 35 of the proposed commission under section 1(c) of this chapter. Any
 36 interested person attending a public hearing held under this subsection
 37 shall have the right to:

38 (1) address the natural resources commission; and

39 (2) provide written comments;

40 on whether the proposed commission should be established. The
 41 **division of water, on behalf of the** natural resources commission, may
 42 convene the meeting, record the testimony given, and receive the

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1 written comments provided.

2 (d) The **division of water, on behalf of the** natural resources
3 commission, shall give notice of a public hearing to be held under
4 subsection (c):

5 (1) by publication at least one (1) time in one (1) newspaper of
6 general circulation in the county in which the hearing will be
7 held; and

8 (2) through the website of the natural resources commission.

9 (e) In deciding whether to recognize a proposed commission, the
10 natural resources commission shall determine the answer to each of the
11 following questions:

12 (1) Are the purposes for which the proposed commission would
13 be established, as set forth in the ordinance or ordinances under
14 section 1(b)(3) of this chapter, within the purposes set forth in
15 IC 14-30.5-3-1 for which a watershed development commission
16 may be established?

17 (2) Do the purposes of the proposed commission, as set forth in
18 the ordinance or ordinances under section 1(b)(3) of this chapter,
19 correspond to legitimate flood damage reduction, drainage,
20 storm water management, recreation, or water infrastructure
21 needs of each county seeking establishment of the commission,
22 as set forth under section 1(b)(4) of this chapter?

23 (3) Is it reasonable to expect that the establishment of a
24 commission having powers under this article only in the county
25 or counties from which the ordinance or ordinances were
26 submitted under section 1(c)(1) of this chapter would effectively
27 address the flood damage reduction, drainage, storm water
28 management, recreation, or water infrastructure needs of each
29 county that submitted an ordinance under section 1(c)(1) of this
30 chapter?

31 (4) Is it reasonable to expect that the establishment of a
32 commission that has powers under this article only in the area or
33 areas inside the geographic boundaries of the designated
34 watershed would effectively address the flood damage reduction,
35 drainage, storm water management, recreation, or water
36 infrastructure needs of each county that submitted an ordinance
37 under section 1(c)(1) of this chapter?

38 (5) Is the territory of the proposed commission at least as large
39 as the entirety of the same eight (8) digit U.S. Geological Survey
40 hydrologic unit code?

41 (6) Has a regional watershed study or watershed management
42 plan been conducted in consultation with the Indiana finance

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1 authority and the department of natural resources that assesses
 2 water use, water quality, drinking water systems, wastewater
 3 management systems, storm water management, flood control,
 4 drainage management, recreational uses, natural resources, and
 5 water infrastructure needs of the watershed of the proposed
 6 commission? If so, can the establishment of the proposed
 7 commission be expected to address the needs identified in that
 8 study or management plan?

9 (f) If:

10 (1) one (1) county's executive submits an ordinance and a
 11 request for recognition of a proposed commission under section
 12 1(c) of this chapter; and
 13 (2) the natural resources commission answers all of the questions
 14 set forth in subsection (e) favorably;

15 the natural resources commission shall issue an order recognizing the
 16 watershed development commission and recognizing the county
 17 referred to in subdivision (1) as a member of the watershed
 18 development commission.

19 (g) If:

20 (1) executives of two (2) or more counties submit ordinances and
 21 requests for recognition of a proposed watershed development
 22 commission under section 1(c) of this chapter; and
 23 (2) the natural resources commission answers all of the questions
 24 set forth in subsection (e) favorably with respect to at least one
 25 (1) of the counties;

26 the natural resources commission shall issue an order recognizing the
 27 watershed development commission and recognizing as a member of
 28 the watershed development commission each county with respect to
 29 which the natural resources commission answered all of the questions
 30 set forth in subsection (e) favorably.

31 (h) If the natural resources commission does not answer all of the
 32 questions set forth in subsection (e) favorably with respect to a county,
 33 the natural resources commission shall:

34 (1) inform the executive of the county in writing of its decision;
 35 and
 36 (2) specify in the writing the reason or reasons for each
 37 unfavorable answer.

38 (i) The action of the natural resources commission under this
 39 section in declining to recognize a proposed watershed development
 40 commission for a particular watershed does not preclude the later
 41 submission of one (1) or more new ordinances and written requests for
 42 recognition of a proposed watershed development commission for the

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1 same designated watershed.

2 (j) An action of the natural resources commission under this
 3 section declining to recognize a particular county as a member of a
 4 watershed development commission does not preclude the later
 5 submission of:

6 (1) another ordinance and written request under section 1(c) of
 7 this chapter for recognition of the county as a member of another
 8 proposed watershed development commission; or

9 (2) an ordinance and written request under section 4 or 5 of this
 10 chapter proposing the county for membership in an established
 11 watershed development commission.

12 SECTION ~~26~~^[46]. IC 14-30.5-2-6, AS AMENDED BY
 13 P.L.92-2025, SECTION 51, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 14 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. (a) A county to which section 4
 15 or 5 of this chapter applies may not become a member of an existing
 16 watershed development commission unless:

17 (1) the executives of all of the counties that are members of the
 18 existing commission adopt ordinances accepting the county as a
 19 member county of the existing commission; and

20 (2) the natural resources commission issues an order under this
 21 section recognizing the county as a member county of the
 22 existing commission.

23 (b) Before making a decision whether to recognize a county as a
 24 member county of an existing commission under this section, the
 25 natural resources commission shall hold at least one (1) public hearing
 26 in the county concerning the proposed membership of the county in the
 27 existing commission. Any interested person attending a public hearing
 28 held under this subsection shall have the right to:

29 (1) address the natural resources commission; and

30 (2) provide written comments;

31 concerning the proposed membership of the county in the existing
 32 commission. The **division of water, on behalf of the** natural resources
 33 commission, may convene the meeting, record the testimony given, and
 34 receive the written comments provided.

35 (c) The **division of water, on behalf of the** natural resources
 36 commission, shall give notice of a public hearing to be held under
 37 subsection (b):

38 (1) by publication at least one (1) time in one (1) newspaper of
 39 general circulation in the county in which the hearing will be
 40 held; and

41 (2) through the website of the natural resources commission.

42 (d) In deciding whether to recognize a county to which section 4

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1 or 5 of this chapter applies as a member of an existing commission, the
2 natural resources commission shall determine the answer to each of the
3 following questions:

4 (1) Do the stated purposes for which the watershed development
5 commission was established correspond to the flood damage
6 reduction, drainage, storm water management, recreation, or
7 water infrastructure needs of the county, as stated under section
8 4(b)(3) or 5(b)(3) of this chapter?

9 (2) Is it reasonable to expect that the county's flood damage
10 reduction, drainage, storm water management, recreation, or
11 water infrastructure needs, as stated under section 4(b)(3) or
12 5(b)(3) of this chapter, would be addressed more effectively if
13 the county were a member of the existing commission than those
14 needs have previously been addressed?

15 (3) Would the county's membership in the existing commission
16 diminish the effectiveness of the existing watershed
17 development commission in addressing the flood damage
18 reduction, drainage, storm water management, recreation, or
19 water infrastructure needs of other member counties?

20 (4) Is the territory of the proposed commission at least as large
21 as the entirety of the same eight (8) digit U.S. Geological Survey
22 hydrologic unit code?

23 (5) Has a regional watershed study or watershed management
24 plan been conducted in consultation with Indiana finance
25 authority and the department of natural resources that assesses
26 water use, water quality, drinking water systems, wastewater
27 management systems, storm water management, flood control,
28 drainage management, recreational uses, natural resources, and
29 water infrastructure needs of the watershed of the proposed
30 commission? If so, can the establishment of the proposed
31 commission be expected to address the needs identified in that
32 study or management plan?

33 (e) If the natural resources commission answers all of the
34 questions set forth in subsection (d) favorably, the natural resources
35 commission shall issue an order recognizing the membership of the
36 county in the existing commission.

37 (f) If the natural resources commission does not answer all of the
38 questions set forth in subsection (d) favorably, the natural resources
39 commission shall inform the executive of the county to which section
40 4 or 5 of this chapter applies in writing of its decision and specify in the
41 writing the reason or reasons for each unfavorable answer.

42 (g) An action of the natural resources commission under this

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1 section declining to recognize a county as a member of an established
 2 watershed development commission does not preclude the later
 3 submission of another ordinance under section 4 or 5 of this chapter
 4 seeking membership for the county in an existing commission.

5 SECTION ~~27~~⁴⁷ IC 14-33-2-19 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 6 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 19. (a) In determining
 7 the facts, the **division of water, on behalf of the** commission, shall **do**
 8 **the following:**

9 (1) Hold hearings at which the **commission division of water**
 10 shall give any interested person the right to be heard.

11 (2) At the request of an interested person, the **commission** shall
 12 hold hearings at the county seat of a county containing land in
 13 the proposed district.

14 (3) **The commission** shall Choose the county seat.

15 (b) The **commission division of water** shall give notice of the
 16 hearings by publication at least one (1) time in one (1) newspaper of
 17 general circulation in each county containing land in the proposed
 18 district.

19 SECTION ~~28~~⁴⁸ IC 14-33-2-22 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 20 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 22. The commission,
 21 **in coordination with the department**, shall make a report of the
 22 commission's findings to the court, including findings on the territorial
 23 limits of the proposed district. The commission shall make this report
 24 within one hundred twenty (120) days after the petition is referred to
 25 the commission, unless the commission requests and receives approval
 26 from the court for additional periods of thirty (30) days each. [

27 SECTION 49. IC 35-52-14-27.8 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE
 28 JULY 1, 2026]. Sec. 27.8. IC 14-22-32-2 defines a crime concerning
 29 game birds and exotic mammals.

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