

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7312

BILL NUMBER: HB 1270

NOTE PREPARED: Apr 22, 2021

BILL AMENDED: Apr 20, 2021

SUBJECT: Department of Homeland Security.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Frye R

FIRST SPONSOR: Sen. Crider

BILL STATUS: Enrolled

FUNDS AFFECTED: GENERAL
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill amends the Administrative Orders and Procedures Act to allow for an initial notice of determination to be served by electronic mail or any other method approved by the Indiana Rules of Trial Procedure. (Under current law, the initial notice of determination may be served only by United States mail or personal service.)

The bill repeals provisions concerning the Division of Planning and Assessment, Division of Preparedness and Training, Division of Emergency Response and Recovery, and Division of Fire and Building Safety. It also assigns all duties of the divisions to the executive director of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) or the DHS generally.

The bill establishes a fire chief executive training program. It also provides that after January 1, 2022, a newly appointed fire chief of a political subdivision must successfully complete the executive training program within one year of appointment. It provides that a volunteer fire chief is not required to complete the executive training program. It also provides that the DHS may allow any of the following individuals to enroll in the executive training program if there is available space in the course: (1) A chief officer. (2) Management level personnel. (3) A volunteer fire chief. (4) A volunteer chief officer. (5) Volunteer management level personnel.

The bill provides that schools with one or more employees shall create an emergency operations plan regarding unplanned fire alarm activations.

The bill also provides that an applicable high school shall comply with all rules of the Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission applicable to the primary use of the building.

The bill makes corresponding changes and technical corrections.

Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Fire Chief Executive Training Program* – This bill establishes an executive training program for fire chief executives. No such program currently exists, and the development and implementation of the program constitutes an increase in workload on the part of DHS. Training will be funded through the Regional Public Safety Training Fund, which receives the majority of its funds from Firework Public Safety Fees. The bill's requirements are within the agency's routine administrative functions and should be able to be implemented with no additional appropriations, assuming near customary agency staffing and resource levels. The bill does not make an appropriation to the fund.

Notices of Determination – This expands the allowable means of providing notices of determination to include electronic mail. This will reduce expenditures associated with providing notices, which currently must be sent via the U.S. Postal service or served in person.

Assignment of Responsibilities – This bill reassigns certain statutory responsibilities from specific divisions of DHS to the executive director. This will allow greater flexibility in the distribution of work load across DHS and may allow for increased efficiency in the future. Depending on administrative actions, these provisions may lead to a decrease in overall workload, an increase in productivity, or both.

Additional Information – The training requirements of this bill are similar to existing requirements for police chiefs and some programs of instruction from that training, which is conducted through the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy, may be suitable for use by DHS. This may reduce the costs in developing and implementing a program that meets the requirements of this bill.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *School Emergency Procedures* – The bill creates new procedural requirements for responding to unplanned fire alarms and new technical requirements for systems used to secure schools against unauthorized access. Depending on the procedures and equipment already in place, these requirements may increase costs to schools. The actual impact of these provisions is indeterminable at this time.

Fire Chief Executive Training Program – To the extent that in-person training is required to complete the program, local units may incur costs associated with travel, lodging and per diem. Because only the chiefs of full-time, professional departments are required to attend this training, volunteer fire departments will not see an increase in expenditures unless they choose to send new chiefs to this training.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Homeland Security.

Local Agencies Affected: Fire departments, schools.

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