

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

**LS 6513**  
**BILL NUMBER: HB 1292**

**NOTE PREPARED: Feb 3, 2025**  
**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Professional Sports Development Commission.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Harris  
**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** CR Adopted - 1<sup>st</sup> House

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**     **GENERAL**  
                          **X DEDICATED**  
                          **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** *Northwest Indiana Professional Sports Development Commission:* The bill establishes the Northwest Indiana Professional Sports Development Commission. It authorizes the commission to study various plans and recommendations that are proposed with respect to attracting a professional sports franchise to northwest Indiana. It also authorizes the commission to prepare a comprehensive master plan for building the facilities and other infrastructure necessary for attracting and developing one or more professional sports franchises in northwest Indiana.

*Professional Sports Development Fund:* The bill creates the Professional Sports Development Fund.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2025.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *Northwest Indiana Professional Sports Development Commission:* The commission would consist of 19 members, including 16 local officials and a representative of the Indiana Department of Transportation, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, and the Governor. Members would receive reimbursement for travel expenses and other expenses incurred in connection with their duties on the commission. Members who are not state employees would also receive salary per diem. The commission is required to hold its initial meeting before September 1, 2025, and set a schedule for regular meetings.

The commission would also incur expenses for hiring staff and an executive director, contracting for staff services, and conducting other activities allowed by the bill. The bill allows the commission to conduct studies, prepare and implement plans for building facilities and infrastructure, and publicize, advertise, and distribute reports, among other activities.

The commission's expenditures will be paid from the Professional Sports Development Fund and will depend on the number of meetings held, the number of staff and contractors hired, and other decisions of the commission.

*Professional Sports Development Fund:* The bill establishes the nonreverting Professional Sports

Development Fund, which would consist of appropriations made by the General Assembly; grants, gifts, and donations; interest; and money from any other source. The commission would administer and make expenditures from the fund. The bill does not make an appropriation to the fund.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** *Northwest Indiana Professional Sports Development Commission:*  
The 16 commission members representing local government include the following:

- The mayors of East Chicago, Gary, Hammond, Michigan City, LaPorte, Portage, and South Bend;
- A member appointed by the executive director of the Northwest Indiana Redevelopment Authority;
- A member of the board of county commissioners from Lake County, Porter County, LaPorte County, and St. Joseph County; and
- A member of the county council for Lake County, Porter County, LaPorte County, and St. Joseph County.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Indiana Department of Transportation, Indiana Economic Development Corporation, Governor.

**Local Agencies Affected:** East Chicago, Gary, Hammond, Michigan City, LaPorte, Portage, South Bend, Lake County, Porter County, LaPorte County, St. Joseph County, Northwest Indiana Redevelopment Authority.

**Information Sources:**

**Fiscal Analyst:** Qian Li, 317-232-9671.