

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

200 W. Washington St., Suite 301
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 233-0696
iga.in.gov

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6310

BILL NUMBER: SB 63

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 6, 2023

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Law Enforcement Powers of Fire Investigators.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Ford J.D.

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill provides that a fire investigator appointed after June 30, 2024, who is a member of: (1) a fire department that provides service to a first or second class city (city); or (2) a city fire department; may exercise police powers for the city if certain requirements are satisfied, including meeting basic training standards established by the Law Enforcement Training Board (board) and written notification is sent from the city fire chief to the city police chief and county sheriff. (Under current law, the fire investigator must be authorized to exercise police power by the police chief and fire chief of the first class or second class city.) It provides that a fire investigator who exercised police powers before July 1, 2024, and has not completed the basic training standards established by the board must complete supplemental training and education established by the board to continue exercising police powers after June 30, 2026. It also allows the board to adopt interim rules to establish the supplemental training and educational requirements for fire investigators.

Effective Date: July 1, 2024.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Indiana Law Enforcement Training Academy (ILEA):* The bill could increase expenditures and workload for ILEA to train additional fire investigators from cities. Depending on the amount of fire investigators that additionally participate in training, ILEA may be able to provide the additional training within existing resources or they may need to shift resources to accommodate the additional fire investigators.

Law Enforcement Training Board (LETB): LETB will see an increase in workload to adopt interim rules to establish the supplemental training and educational requirements for fire investigators by May 1, 2025. 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.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Fire Department:* Cities with fire investigators would experience an increase in expenditures if they send additional fire investigators for training.

Fire investigators of cities may see a workload increase to the extent that they are allowed to exercise police powers due to needing only the fire chief to notify in written form the police chief and county sheriff to authorize police powers. However, starting in July 1, 2026, if a fire investigator who had police powers before July 1, 2024 did not complete Tier 1 basic training, they will not be able to exercise police powers unless they complete supplemental training as set by the LETB, potentially increasing the workload for fire investigators.

The fire chief of a city may see a minor workload increase to notify the police chief and the county sheriff in written form. 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.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Indiana Law Enforcement Training Academy, Law Enforcement Training Board.

Local Agencies Affected: Fire and police departments of cities.

Information Sources:

Fiscal Analyst: Nate Bodnar, 317-234-9476.