

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

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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6793**  
**BILL NUMBER: SB 271**

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 10, 2024  
**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Water Resource Management.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Ford J.D.  
**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

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

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** *Water Resource Data and Planning:* The bill makes the Indiana Finance Authority (IFA) the entity with primary authority for the gathering, interpretation, and dissemination of Indiana water resource data. It requires the IFA to coordinate and facilitate statewide water resource planning in Indiana.

*Wastewater Treatment Plant Effluent:* The bill defines "water supply reservoir" as a body of water that was formed by the construction of a dam and from which water is drawn by a water treatment plant that provides water utility service to the public. It provides that effluent from a wastewater treatment plant shall not be discharged into: (1) a water supply reservoir; (2) a stream that flows into a water supply reservoir; or (3) a wetland associated with a stream that flows into a water supply reservoir; through a pipeline more than 10 miles in length.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2024.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *Water Resource Data and Planning:* The bill will increase workload and expenditures for the IFA. It requires the IFA to coordinate and facilitate statewide water resource planning in Indiana. If existing staff and resources are currently being used to capacity, they could be supplied from staffing and resources being used in another program or through additional appropriations. As of December 2023, the IFA had 8 vacant positions.

The bill could minimally increase workload for the Natural Resources Commission (NRC). The NRC would need to make information related to water resources available to the IFA, in addition to the other entities with which the NRC currently shares the information.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** *Wastewater Treatment Plant Effluent:* If any municipal wastewater treatment plant discharges effluent through a pipeline more than 10 miles in length into a water supply reservoir or a stream or wetland associated with a stream that flows into a water supply reservoir, it would experience an increase in expenditures to redesign its discharge system.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Indiana Finance Authority; Natural Resources Commission.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Municipal wastewater treatment plant.

**Information Sources:**

<https://www.in.gov/dnr/water/water-availability-use-rights/water-resource-updates/status-of-ground-water-levels/>;  
<https://www.in.gov/ideM/cleanwater/wastewater-permitting/what-is-point-source-pollution/>;  
<https://www.in.gov/ideM/cleanwater/wastewater-permitting/national-pollutant-discharge-elimination-system-npdes/>;  
<https://www.in.gov/ideM/cleanwater/wastewater-permitting/>.

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