

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

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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7373**

**BILL NUMBER: SB 348**

**NOTE PREPARED: Feb 1, 2021**

**BILL AMENDED: Feb 1, 2021**

**SUBJECT: Wastewater Task Force.**

**FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Koch**

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS: 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading - 1<sup>st</sup> House**

**FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL  
DEDICATED  
FEDERAL**

**IMPACT: State**

**Summary of Legislation:** The bill establishes the task force on wastewater infrastructure investment and service to underserved areas (task force). The bill provides that the task force consists of the following 14 members:

- (1) Four members of the Senate, with the President Pro Tempore appointing three members (one of whom serves as co-chair of the task force), and the Minority Leader appointing one member.
- (2) Four members of the House of Representatives, with the Speaker appointing three members (one of whom serves as co-chair of the task force), and the Minority Leader appointing one member.
- (3) Six gubernatorial appointees, including the following: (A) One officer or employee of the state. (B) One member representing operators of wastewater management systems. (C) One engineer, or another professional, with expertise in wastewater management systems. (D) One member representing ratepayers. (E) One member representing municipalities served by a wastewater operator not under the jurisdiction of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC). (F) One member of the general public.

The bill sets forth the duties of the task force. It requires the task force to develop a long term plan for addressing wastewater needs in Indiana. The bill requires the task force to issue a report setting forth its recommendations to: (1) the Executive Director of the Legislative Services Agency for distribution to members of the General Assembly; and (2) the Governor; not later than December 1, 2021. It provides that the bill's provisions concerning the task force expire January 1, 2022.

**Effective Date:** Upon passage.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** (Revised) The bill establishes the Task Force for Wastewater

Infrastructure Investment and Service to Underserved Areas to study the following: maintenance and life cycle management of wastewater management systems, the achievement of standards related to wastewater management systems in Indiana, the adequacy of funding for the maintenance and life cycle management of wastewater management systems, existing policies regulating wastewater management systems, the value of improved wastewater infrastructure as it relates to economic development, difficulties in connecting unserved properties to sanitary sewer systems, financing options for extending wastewater service into rural or underserved areas, and roles and responsibilities of state agencies related to wastewater regulation.

The bill establishes a 14-member task force consisting of 8 legislators and 6 lay members. The committee is to operate under the policies governing study committees adopted by the Legislative Council. Legislative Council resolutions in the past have established budgets for interim study committees in the amount of \$13,500 per interim for committees with fewer than 16 members. [The now-expired Storm Water Infrastructure task force had expenses of about \$10,000 in 2019.]

The bill directs the task force to submit a report to the Executive Director of the Legislative Services Agency (LSA) for distribution to the members of the General Assembly and the Office of the Governor no later than December 1, 2021. The bill requires LSA to provide staff to support the task force. This provision will increase the LSA workload.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** General Assembly; Legislative Services Agency.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:**

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