

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

LS 7217

BILL NUMBER: SB 468

NOTE PREPARED: Apr 4, 2025

BILL AMENDED: Apr 3, 2025

SUBJECT: Midwest Continental Divide Commission.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Niezgodski

FIRST SPONSOR: Rep. Teshka

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 2nd House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) The bill allows an eligible county and city to establish by ordinance, a Midwest Continental Divide Commission and District for the purpose of acquiring, developing, funding, constructing, equipping, and owning economic improvement projects in or serving the district.

The bill amends an appropriation made in P.L.201-2023 to the Northern Indiana Regional Economic Development Authority to allow funds to be used to support and fund the Commission and the Commission's projects.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The bill provides that of the five members of the Commission, one is appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and one is appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. The legislative members of the board would receive a salary per diem and reimbursement for travel expenses, which would be paid from the appropriation made to the Legislative Services Agency. The nonlegislative members of the board would receive reimbursement for any necessary expenses for carrying out their duties, which would be paid from the Commission Fund.

(Revised) The bill authorizes the appropriation made to the Northern Indiana Regional Economic Development Authority can be used to fund the Commission and the Commission's projects. The amount of funding provided will be at the discretion of the Northern Indiana Regional Economic Development Authority.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: (Revised) The bill authorizes the creation of the Midwest Continental Divide Commission. The Commission is established through the adoption of an ordinance approved by St. Joseph County and the city of South Bend. The Commission is governed by a board comprised of five members: one appointed by St. Joseph County, one appointed by South Bend, one appointed by the Speaker

of the House of Representatives, one appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and one appointed by the Chair of the Pokagon Band of the Potawatomi. The enabling ordinances will also designate the boundaries of the district.

The Commission has the authority to buy and sell land, exercise eminent domain and enter into contracts to finance economic improvement projects defined in the bill.

Explanation of Local Revenues: The Commission is allowed to receive revenue through agreements with St. Joseph County, South Bend, the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, and other eligible participants. It can also receive revenue through donations, gifts, state appropriations, federal funding, and the sale of assets.

State Agencies Affected: General Assembly.

Local Agencies Affected: St. Joseph County, South Bend.

Information Sources: U.S. Department of the Interior
<https://www.bia.gov/sites/default/files/dup/assets/public/oig/pdf/idc2-056228.pdf>

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