

First Regular Session of the 120th General Assembly (2017)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2016 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

## HOUSE ENROLLED ACT No. 1043

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AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning transportation and to make an appropriation.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

SECTION 1. IC 6-1.1-20-1.1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.233-2015, SECTION 18, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2017]: Sec. 1.1. As used in this chapter, "controlled project" means any project financed by bonds or a lease, except for the following:

(1) A project for which the political subdivision reasonably expects to pay:

(A) debt service; or

(B) lease rentals;

from funds other than property taxes that are exempt from the levy limitations of IC 6-1.1-18.5 or (before January 1, 2009) IC 20-45-3. A project is not a controlled project even though the political subdivision has pledged to levy property taxes to pay the debt service or lease rentals if those other funds are insufficient.

(2) A project that will not cost the political subdivision more than the lesser of the following:

(A) **An amount equal to the following:**

(i) **In the case of an ordinance or resolution adopted before January 1, 2018, making a preliminary determination to issue bonds or enter into a lease for the project, two million dollars (\$2,000,000).**

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(ii) In the case of an ordinance or resolution adopted after December 31, 2017, and before January 1, 2019, making a preliminary determination to issue bonds or enter into a lease for the project, five million dollars (\$5,000,000).

(iii) In the case of an ordinance or resolution adopted in a calendar year after December 31, 2018, making a preliminary determination to issue bonds or enter into a lease for the project, an amount (as determined by the department of local government finance) equal to the result of the assessed value growth quotient determined under IC 6-1.1-18.5-2 for the year multiplied by the amount determined under this clause for the preceding calendar year.

The department of local government finance shall publish the threshold determined under item (iii) in the Indiana Register under IC 4-22-7-7 not more than sixty (60) days after the date the budget agency releases the growth quotient for the ensuing year under IC 6-1.1-18.5-2.

(B) An amount equal to the following:

(i) One percent (1%) of the total gross assessed value of property within the political subdivision on the last assessment date, if that amount total gross assessed value is at least more than one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000).

(ii) One million dollars (\$1,000,000), if the total gross assessed value of property within the political subdivision on the last assessment date is not more than one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000).

For purposes of this chapter, the cost of a project by a school corporation career and technical education school described in IC 20-37-1-1 that is funded through an advance from the common school fund under IC 20-49 shall be allocated among the organizing school corporations in the same manner as the advance is allocated under IC 20-49-4.

(3) A project that is being refinanced for the purpose of providing gross or net present value savings to taxpayers.

(4) A project for which bonds were issued or leases were entered into before January 1, 1996, or where the state board of tax commissioners has approved the issuance of bonds or the execution of leases before January 1, 1996.

(5) A project that is required by a court order holding that a



federal law mandates the project.

(6) A project that is in response to:

- (A) a natural disaster;
- (B) an accident; or
- (C) an emergency;

in the political subdivision that makes a building or facility unavailable for its intended use.

(7) A project that was not a controlled project under this section as in effect on June 30, 2008, and for which:

- (A) the bonds or lease for the project were issued or entered into before July 1, 2008; or
- (B) the issuance of the bonds or the execution of the lease for the project was approved by the department of local government finance before July 1, 2008.

(8) A project of the Little Calumet River basin development commission for which bonds are payable from special assessments collected under IC 14-13-2-18.6.

SECTION 2. IC 6-1.1-20-2.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2017]: **Sec. 2.5. For purposes of this chapter, the cost of a project by a school corporation career and technical education school described in IC 20-37-1-1 that is funded through an advance from the common school fund under IC 20-49 shall be allocated among the organizing school corporations in the same manner as the advance is allocated under IC 20-49-4.**

SECTION 3. IC 6-1.1-20-3.1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.138-2016, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2017]: Sec. 3.1. (a) **Subject to section 3.5(a)(1)(C) of this chapter**, this section applies only to the following:

(1) A controlled project (as defined in section 1.1 of this chapter as in effect June 30, 2008) for which the proper officers of a political subdivision make a preliminary determination in the manner described in subsection (b) before July 1, 2008.

(2) An elementary school building, middle school building, high school building, or other school building for academic instruction that:

- (A) is a controlled project;
- (B) will be used for any combination of kindergarten through grade 12; and
- (C) will not cost more than ~~ten million dollars (\$10,000,000)~~; **the lesser of the following:**

**(i) The threshold amount determined under this item. In**



the case of an ordinance or resolution adopted before January 1, 2018, making a preliminary determination to issue bonds or enter into a lease for the project, the threshold amount is ten million dollars (\$10,000,000). In the case of an ordinance or resolution adopted after December 31, 2017, and before January 1, 2019, making a preliminary determination to issue bonds or enter into a lease for the project, the threshold amount is fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000). In the case of an ordinance or resolution adopted in a calendar year after December 31, 2018, making a preliminary determination to issue bonds or enter into a lease for the project, the threshold amount is an amount (as determined by the department of local government finance) equal to the result of the assessed value growth quotient determined under IC 6-1.1-18.5-2 for the year multiplied by the threshold amount determined under this item for the preceding calendar year. In the case of a threshold amount determined under this item that applies for a calendar year after December 31, 2018, the department of local government finance shall publish the threshold in the Indiana Register under IC 4-22-7-7 not more than sixty (60) days after the date the budget agency releases the assessed value growth quotient for the ensuing year under IC 6-1.1-18.5-2.

(ii) An amount equal to one percent (1%) of the total gross assessed value of property within the political subdivision on the last assessment date, if that total gross assessed value is more than one billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000), or ten million dollars (\$10,000,000), if the total gross assessed value of property within the political subdivision on the last assessment date is not more than one billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000).

- (3) Any other controlled project that:
- (A) is not a controlled project described in subdivision (1) or (2); and
  - (B) will not cost the political subdivision more than the lesser of the following:
    - (i) Twelve million dollars (\$12,000,000). The threshold amount determined under this item. In the case of an ordinance or resolution adopted before January 1, 2018, making a preliminary determination to issue bonds or



enter into a lease for the project, the threshold amount is twelve million dollars (\$12,000,000). In the case of an ordinance or resolution adopted after December 31, 2017, and before January 1, 2019, making a preliminary determination to issue bonds or enter into a lease for the project, the threshold amount is fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000). In the case of an ordinance or resolution adopted in a calendar year after December 31, 2018, making a preliminary determination to issue bonds or enter into a lease for the project, the threshold amount is an amount (as determined by the department of local government finance) equal to the result of the assessed value growth quotient determined under IC 6-1.1-18.5-2 for the year multiplied by the threshold amount determined under this item for the preceding calendar year. In the case of a threshold amount determined under this item that applies for a calendar year after December 31, 2018, the department of local government finance shall publish the threshold in the Indiana Register under IC 4-22-7-7 not more than sixty (60) days after the date the budget agency releases the assessed value growth quotient for the ensuing year under IC 6-1.1-18.5-2.

(ii) An amount equal to one percent (1%) of the total gross assessed value of property within the political subdivision on the last assessment date, if that ~~amount~~ **total gross assessed value is more than one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000)**, ~~at least or~~ one million dollars (\$1,000,000), **if the total gross assessed value of property within the political subdivision on the last assessment date is not more than one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000)**.

(b) A political subdivision may not impose property taxes to pay debt service on bonds or lease rentals on a lease for a controlled project without completing the following procedures:

- (1) The proper officers of a political subdivision shall
  - ~~(A)~~ publish notice in accordance with IC 5-3-1 and
  - ~~(B)~~ send notice by first class mail to the circuit court clerk and to any organization that delivers to the officers, before January 1 of that year, an annual written request for such notices of any meeting to consider adoption of a resolution or an ordinance making a preliminary determination to issue bonds or enter into a lease and shall conduct a **at least two (2)** public



**hearing hearings** on a preliminary determination before adoption of the resolution or ordinance. **The political subdivision must at each of the public hearings on the preliminary determination allow the public to testify regarding the preliminary determination and must make the following information available to the public at each of the public hearings on the preliminary determination, in addition to any other information required by law:**

**(A) The result of the political subdivision's current and projected annual debt service payments divided by the net assessed value of taxable property within the political subdivision.**

**(B) The result of:**

**(i) the sum of the political subdivision's outstanding long term debt plus the outstanding long term debt of other taxing units that include any of the territory of the political subdivision; divided by**

**(ii) the net assessed value of taxable property within the political subdivision.**

**(C) The information specified in subdivision (3)(A) through (3)(H).**

(2) When the proper officers of a political subdivision make a preliminary determination to issue bonds or enter into a lease for a controlled project, the officers shall give notice of the preliminary determination by:

(A) publication in accordance with IC 5-3-1; and

(B) first class mail to the circuit court clerk and to the organizations described in subdivision ~~(+)(B)~~: **(1)**.

(3) A notice under subdivision (2) of the preliminary determination of the political subdivision to issue bonds or enter into a lease for a controlled project must include the following information:

(A) The maximum term of the bonds or lease.

(B) The maximum principal amount of the bonds or the maximum lease rental for the lease.

(C) The estimated interest rates that will be paid and the total interest costs associated with the bonds or lease.

(D) The purpose of the bonds or lease.

(E) A statement that any owners of property within the political subdivision or registered voters residing within the political subdivision who want to initiate a petition and remonstrance process against the proposed debt service or



lease payments must file a petition that complies with subdivisions (4) and (5) not later than thirty (30) days after publication in accordance with IC 5-3-1.

(F) With respect to bonds issued or a lease entered into to open:

- (i) a new school facility; or
- (ii) an existing facility that has not been used for at least three (3) years and that is being reopened to provide additional classroom space;

the estimated costs the school corporation expects to incur annually to operate the facility.

(G) A statement of whether the school corporation expects to appeal for a new facility adjustment (as defined in IC 20-45-1-16 (repealed) before January 1, 2009) for an increased maximum permissible tuition support levy to pay the estimated costs described in clause (F).

**(H) The following information:**

**(i)** The political subdivision's current debt service levy and rate. ~~and~~

**(ii)** The estimated increase to the political subdivision's debt service levy and rate that will result if the political subdivision issues the bonds or enters into the lease.

**(iii) The estimated amount of the political subdivision's debt service levy and rate that will result during the following ten (10) years if the political subdivision issues the bonds or enters into the lease, after also considering any changes that will occur to the debt service levy and rate during that period on account of any outstanding bonds or lease obligations that will mature or terminate during that period.**

**(I) The information specified in subdivision (1)(A) through (1)(B).**

(4) After notice is given, a petition requesting the application of a petition and remonstrance process may be filed by the lesser of:

(A) five hundred (500) persons who are either owners of property within the political subdivision or registered voters residing within the political subdivision; or

(B) five percent (5%) of the registered voters residing within the political subdivision.

(5) The state board of accounts shall design and, upon request by the county voter registration office, deliver to the county voter registration office or the county voter registration office's



designated printer the petition forms to be used solely in the petition process described in this section. The county voter registration office shall issue to an owner or owners of property within the political subdivision or a registered voter residing within the political subdivision the number of petition forms requested by the owner or owners or the registered voter. Each form must be accompanied by instructions detailing the requirements that:

- (A) the carrier and signers must be owners of property or registered voters;
- (B) the carrier must be a signatory on at least one (1) petition;
- (C) after the signatures have been collected, the carrier must swear or affirm before a notary public that the carrier witnessed each signature; and
- (D) govern the closing date for the petition period.

Persons requesting forms may be required to identify themselves as owners of property or registered voters and may be allowed to pick up additional copies to distribute to other owners of property or registered voters. Each person signing a petition must indicate whether the person is signing the petition as a registered voter within the political subdivision or is signing the petition as the owner of property within the political subdivision. A person who signs a petition as a registered voter must indicate the address at which the person is registered to vote. A person who signs a petition as an owner of property must indicate the address of the property owned by the person in the political subdivision.

(6) Each petition must be verified under oath by at least one (1) qualified petitioner in a manner prescribed by the state board of accounts before the petition is filed with the county voter registration office under subdivision (7).

(7) Each petition must be filed with the county voter registration office not more than thirty (30) days after publication under subdivision (2) of the notice of the preliminary determination.

(8) The county voter registration office shall determine whether each person who signed the petition is a registered voter. **However, after the county voter registration office has determined that at least five hundred twenty-five (525) persons who signed the petition are registered voters within the political subdivision, the county voter registration office is not required to verify whether the remaining persons who signed the petition are registered voters. If the county voter registration office does not determine that at least five**





**hundred twenty-five (525) persons who signed the petition are registered voters**, the county voter registration office shall, not more than fifteen (15) business days after receiving a petition, forward a copy of the petition to the county auditor. Not more than ten (10) business days after receiving the copy of the petition, the county auditor shall provide to the county voter registration office a statement verifying:

(A) whether a person who signed the petition as a registered voter but is not a registered voter, as determined by the county voter registration office, is the owner of property in the political subdivision; and

(B) whether a person who signed the petition as an owner of property within the political subdivision does in fact own property within the political subdivision.

(9) The county voter registration office, ~~shall~~, not more than ten (10) business days after **determining that at least five hundred twenty-five (525) persons who signed the petition are registered voters or** receiving the statement from the county auditor under subdivision (8), **as applicable, shall** make the final determination of the number of petitioners that are registered voters in the political subdivision and, based on the statement provided by the county auditor, the number of petitioners that own property within the political subdivision. Whenever the name of an individual who signs a petition form as a registered voter contains a minor variation from the name of the registered voter as set forth in the records of the county voter registration office, the signature is presumed to be valid, and there is a presumption that the individual is entitled to sign the petition under this section. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, in determining whether an individual is a registered voter, the county voter registration office shall apply the requirements and procedures used under IC 3 to determine whether a person is a registered voter for purposes of voting in an election governed by IC 3. However, an individual is not required to comply with the provisions concerning providing proof of identification to be considered a registered voter for purposes of this chapter. A person is entitled to sign a petition only one (1) time in a particular petition and remonstrance process under this chapter, regardless of whether the person owns more than one (1) parcel of real property, mobile home assessed as personal property, or manufactured home assessed as personal property, or a combination of those types of property within the subdivision and



regardless of whether the person is both a registered voter in the political subdivision and the owner of property within the political subdivision. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, if a petition is presented to the county voter registration office within forty-five (45) days before an election, the county voter registration office may defer acting on the petition, and the time requirements under this section for action by the county voter registration office do not begin to run until five (5) days after the date of the election.

(10) The county voter registration office must file a certificate and each petition with:

(A) the township trustee, if the political subdivision is a township, who shall present the petition or petitions to the township board; or

(B) the body that has the authority to authorize the issuance of the bonds or the execution of a lease, if the political subdivision is not a township;

within thirty-five (35) business days of the filing of the petition requesting a petition and remonstrance process. The certificate must state the number of petitioners that are owners of property within the political subdivision and the number of petitioners who are registered voters residing within the political subdivision.

If a sufficient petition requesting a petition and remonstrance process is not filed by owners of property or registered voters as set forth in this section, the political subdivision may issue bonds or enter into a lease by following the provisions of law relating to the bonds to be issued or lease to be entered into.

~~(c) This subsection applies only to a political subdivision that, after April 30, 2011, adopts an ordinance or a resolution making a preliminary determination to issue bonds or enter into a lease subject to this section and section 3.2 of this chapter. A political subdivision may not artificially divide a capital controlled project into multiple capital projects in order to avoid the requirements of this section and section 3.2 of this chapter. A person that owns property within a political subdivision or a person that is a registered voter residing within a political subdivision may file a petition with the department of local government finance objecting that the political subdivision has artificially divided a capital controlled project into multiple capital projects in order to avoid the requirements of this section and section 3.2 of this chapter. The petition must be filed not more than ten (10) days after the political subdivision makes the preliminary determination gives notice of the political subdivision's decision to~~



issue ~~the~~ bonds or enter into ~~the lease~~ leases for ~~the~~ a capital project **that the person believes is the result of a division of a controlled project that is prohibited by this subsection.** If the department of local government finance receives a petition under this subsection, the department shall not later than thirty (30) days after receiving the petition make a final determination on the issue of whether the ~~capital projects were artificially~~ **political subdivision** divided a **controlled project in order to avoid the requirements of this section and section 3.2 of this chapter.** If the department of local government finance determines that a **political subdivision** divided a **controlled project in order to avoid the requirements of this section and section 3.2 of this chapter** and the **political subdivision** continues to desire to proceed with the project, the **political subdivision** shall fulfill the requirements of this section and section 3.2 of this chapter, if applicable, regardless of the cost of the project in dispute. A **political subdivision** shall be considered to have divided a **capital project in order to avoid the requirements of this section and section 3.2 of this chapter** if the result of one (1) or more of the subprojects cannot reasonably be considered an independently desirable end in itself without reference to another capital project. **This subsection does not prohibit a political subdivision from undertaking a series of capital projects in which the result of each capital project can reasonably be considered an independently desirable end in itself without reference to another capital project.**

SECTION 4. IC 6-1.1-20-3.2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.42-2011, SECTION 9, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2017]: Sec. 3.2. (a) **Subject to section 3.5(a)(1)(C) of this chapter,** this section applies only to controlled projects described in section 3.1(a) of this chapter.

(b) If a sufficient petition requesting the application of a petition and remonstrance process has been filed as set forth in section 3.1 of this chapter, a political subdivision may not impose property taxes to pay debt service on bonds or lease rentals on a lease for a controlled project without completing the following procedures:

- (1) The proper officers of the political subdivision shall give notice of the applicability of the petition and remonstrance process by:
  - (A) publication in accordance with IC 5-3-1; and
  - (B) first class mail to the circuit court clerk and to the organizations described in ~~section 3.1(b)(1)(B)~~ **3.1(b)(1)** of this chapter.

A notice under this subdivision must include a statement that any



owners of property within the political subdivision or registered voters residing within the political subdivision who want to petition in favor of or remonstrate against the proposed debt service or lease payments must file petitions and remonstrances in compliance with subdivisions (2) through (4) not earlier than thirty (30) days or later than sixty (60) days after publication in accordance with IC 5-3-1.

(2) Not earlier than thirty (30) days or later than sixty (60) days after the notice under subdivision (1) is given:

(A) petitions (described in subdivision (3)) in favor of the bonds or lease; and

(B) remonstrances (described in subdivision (3)) against the bonds or lease;

may be filed by an owner or owners of property within the political subdivision or a registered voter residing within the political subdivision. Each signature on a petition must be dated, and the date of signature may not be before the date on which the petition and remonstrance forms may be issued under subdivision (3). A petition described in clause (A) or a remonstrance described in clause (B) must be verified in compliance with subdivision (4) before the petition or remonstrance is filed with the county voter registration office under subdivision (4).

(3) The state board of accounts shall design and, upon request by the county voter registration office, deliver to the county voter registration office or the county voter registration office's designated printer the petition and remonstrance forms to be used solely in the petition and remonstrance process described in this section. The county voter registration office shall issue to an owner or owners of property within the political subdivision or a registered voter residing within the political subdivision the number of petition or remonstrance forms requested by the owner or owners or the registered voter. Each form must be accompanied by instructions detailing the requirements that:

(A) the carrier and signers must be owners of property or registered voters;

(B) the carrier must be a signatory on at least one (1) petition;

(C) after the signatures have been collected, the carrier must swear or affirm before a notary public that the carrier witnessed each signature;

(D) govern the closing date for the petition and remonstrance period; and

(E) apply to the carrier under section 10 of this chapter.



Persons requesting forms may be required to identify themselves as owners of property or registered voters and may be allowed to pick up additional copies to distribute to other owners of property or registered voters. Each person signing a petition or remonstrance must indicate whether the person is signing the petition or remonstrance as a registered voter within the political subdivision or is signing the petition or remonstrance as the owner of property within the political subdivision. A person who signs a petition or remonstrance as a registered voter must indicate the address at which the person is registered to vote. A person who signs a petition or remonstrance as an owner of property must indicate the address of the property owned by the person in the political subdivision. The county voter registration office may not issue a petition or remonstrance form earlier than twenty-nine (29) days after the notice is given under subdivision (1). The county voter registration office shall certify the date of issuance on each petition or remonstrance form that is distributed under this subdivision.

(4) The petitions and remonstrances must be verified in the manner prescribed by the state board of accounts and filed with the county voter registration office within the sixty (60) day period described in subdivision (2) in the manner set forth in section 3.1 of this chapter relating to requests for a petition and remonstrance process.

(5) The county voter registration office shall determine whether each person who signed the petition or remonstrance is a registered voter. The county voter registration office shall not more than fifteen (15) business days after receiving a petition or remonstrance forward a copy of the petition or remonstrance to the county auditor. Not more than ten (10) business days after receiving the copy of the petition or remonstrance, the county auditor shall provide to the county voter registration office a statement verifying:

(A) whether a person who signed the petition or remonstrance as a registered voter but is not a registered voter, as determined by the county voter registration office, is the owner of property in the political subdivision; and

(B) whether a person who signed the petition or remonstrance as an owner of property within the political subdivision does in fact own property within the political subdivision.

(6) The county voter registration office shall not more than ten (10) business days after receiving the statement from the county



auditor under subdivision (5) make the final determination of:

- (A) the number of registered voters in the political subdivision that signed a petition and, based on the statement provided by the county auditor, the number of owners of property within the political subdivision that signed a petition; and
- (B) the number of registered voters in the political subdivision that signed a remonstrance and, based on the statement provided by the county auditor, the number of owners of property within the political subdivision that signed a remonstrance.

Whenever the name of an individual who signs a petition or remonstrance as a registered voter contains a minor variation from the name of the registered voter as set forth in the records of the county voter registration office, the signature is presumed to be valid, and there is a presumption that the individual is entitled to sign the petition or remonstrance under this section. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, in determining whether an individual is a registered voter, the county voter registration office shall apply the requirements and procedures used under IC 3 to determine whether a person is a registered voter for purposes of voting in an election governed by IC 3. However, an individual is not required to comply with the provisions concerning providing proof of identification to be considered a registered voter for purposes of this chapter. A person is entitled to sign a petition or remonstrance only one (1) time in a particular petition and remonstrance process under this chapter, regardless of whether the person owns more than one (1) parcel of real property, mobile home assessed as personal property, or manufactured home assessed as personal property or a combination of those types of property within the subdivision and regardless of whether the person is both a registered voter in the political subdivision and the owner of property within the political subdivision. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, if a petition or remonstrance is presented to the county voter registration office within forty-five (45) days before an election, the county voter registration office may defer acting on the petition or remonstrance, and the time requirements under this section for action by the county voter registration office do not begin to run until five (5) days after the date of the election.

(7) The county voter registration office must file a certificate and the petition or remonstrance with the body of the political subdivision charged with issuing bonds or entering into leases



within thirty-five (35) business days of the filing of a petition or remonstrance under subdivision (4), whichever applies, containing ten thousand (10,000) signatures or less. The county voter registration office may take an additional five (5) days to review and certify the petition or remonstrance for each additional five thousand (5,000) signatures up to a maximum of sixty (60) days. The certificate must state the number of petitioners and remonstrators that are owners of property within the political subdivision and the number of petitioners who are registered voters residing within the political subdivision.

(8) If a greater number of persons who are either owners of property within the political subdivision or registered voters residing within the political subdivision sign a remonstrance than the number that signed a petition, the bonds petitioned for may not be issued or the lease petitioned for may not be entered into. The proper officers of the political subdivision may not make a preliminary determination to issue bonds or enter into a lease for the controlled project defeated by the petition and remonstrance process under this section or any other controlled project that is not substantially different within one (1) year after the date of the county voter registration office's certificate under subdivision (7). Withdrawal of a petition carries the same consequences as a defeat of the petition.

(9) After a political subdivision has gone through the petition and remonstrance process set forth in this section, the political subdivision is not required to follow any other remonstrance or objection procedures under any other law (including section 5 of this chapter) relating to bonds or leases designed to protect owners of property within the political subdivision from the imposition of property taxes to pay debt service or lease rentals. However, the political subdivision must still receive the approval of the department of local government finance if required by:

(A) IC 6-1.1-18.5-8; or

(B) IC 20-46-7-8, IC 20-46-7-9, and IC 20-46-7-10.

SECTION 5. IC 6-1.1-20-3.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.138-2016, SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2017]: Sec. 3.5. (a) This section applies only to a controlled project that meets the following conditions:

(1) The controlled project is described in one (1) of the following categories:

(A) An elementary school building, middle school building, high school building, or other school building for academic



instruction that

(i) will be used for any combination of kindergarten through grade 12 and

(ii) will cost more than ten million dollars (\$10,000,000); the lesser of the following:

(i) **The threshold amount determined under this item. In the case of an ordinance or resolution adopted before January 1, 2018, making a preliminary determination to issue bonds or enter into a lease for the project, the threshold amount is ten million dollars (\$10,000,000). In the case of an ordinance or resolution adopted after December 31, 2017, and before January 1, 2019, making a preliminary determination to issue bonds or enter into a lease for the project, the threshold amount is fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000). In the case of an ordinance or resolution adopted in a calendar year after December 31, 2018, making a preliminary determination to issue bonds or enter into a lease for the project, the threshold amount is an amount (as determined by the department of local government finance) equal to the result of the assessed value growth quotient determined under IC 6-1.1-18.5-2 for the year multiplied by the threshold amount determined under this item for the preceding calendar year. In the case of a threshold amount determined under this item that applies for a calendar year after December 31, 2018, the department of local government finance shall publish the threshold in the Indiana Register under IC 4-22-7-7 not more than sixty (60) days after the date the budget agency releases the assessed value growth quotient for the ensuing year under IC 6-1.1-18.5-2.**

(ii) **An amount equal to one percent (1%) of the total gross assessed value of property within the political subdivision on the last assessment date, if that total gross assessed value is more than one billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000), or ten million dollars (\$10,000,000), if the total gross assessed value of property within the political subdivision on the last assessment date is not more than one billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000).**

(B) Any other controlled project that is not a controlled project described in clause (A) and will cost the political subdivision more than the lesser of the following:





**(i) The threshold amount determined under this item. In the case of an ordinance or resolution adopted before January 1, 2018, making a preliminary determination to issue bonds or enter into a lease for the project, the threshold amount is twelve million dollars (\$12,000,000). In the case of an ordinance or resolution adopted after December 31, 2017, and before January 1, 2019, making a preliminary determination to issue bonds or enter into a lease for the project, the threshold amount is fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000). In the case of an ordinance or resolution adopted in a calendar year after December 31, 2018, making a preliminary determination to issue bonds or enter into a lease for the project, the threshold amount is an amount (as determined by the department of local government finance) equal to the result of the assessed value growth quotient determined under IC 6-1.1-18.5-2 for the year multiplied by the threshold amount determined under this item for the preceding calendar year. In the case of a threshold amount determined under this item that applies for a calendar year after December 31, 2018, the department of local government finance shall publish the threshold in the Indiana Register under IC 4-22-7-7 not more than sixty (60) days after the date the budget agency releases the assessed value growth quotient for the ensuing year under IC 6-1.1-18.5-2.**

**(ii) An amount equal to one percent (1%) of the total gross assessed value of property within the political subdivision on the last assessment date, if that total gross assessed value is more than one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000), or one million dollars (\$1,000,000), if the total gross assessed value of property within the political subdivision on the last assessment date is not more than one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000).**

**(i) is not a controlled project described in clause (A); and  
(ii) will cost the political subdivision more than the lesser of twelve million dollars (\$12,000,000) or an amount equal to one percent (1%) of the total gross assessed value of property within the political subdivision on the last assessment date (if that amount is at least one million dollars (\$1,000,000)).**

**(C) Any other controlled project for which a political**



**subdivision adopts an ordinance or resolution making a preliminary determination to issue bonds or enter into a lease for the project, if the sum of:**

- (i) the cost of that controlled project; plus**
- (ii) the costs of all other controlled projects for which the political subdivision has previously adopted within the preceding three hundred sixty-five (365) days an ordinance or resolution making a preliminary determination to issue bonds or enter into a lease for those other controlled projects;**

**exceeds twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000).**

(2) The proper officers of the political subdivision make a preliminary determination after June 30, 2008, in the manner described in subsection (b) to issue bonds or enter into a lease for the controlled project.

(b) A political subdivision may not impose property taxes to pay debt service on bonds or lease rentals on a lease for a controlled project without completing the following procedures:

(1) The proper officers of a political subdivision shall publish notice in accordance with IC 5-3-1 and send notice by first class mail to the circuit court clerk and to any organization that delivers to the officers, before January 1 of that year, an annual written request for notices of any meeting to consider the adoption of an ordinance or a resolution making a preliminary determination to issue bonds or enter into a lease and shall conduct **a at least two (2) public hearing hearings** on the preliminary determination before adoption of the ordinance or resolution. The political subdivision must **at each of the public hearings on the preliminary determination allow the public to testify regarding the preliminary determination and must** make the following information available to the public at **each of the public hearing hearings** on the preliminary determination, in addition to any other information required by law:

(A) The result of the political subdivision's current and projected annual debt service payments divided by the net assessed value of taxable property within the political subdivision.

(B) The result of:

- (i) the sum of the political subdivision's outstanding long term debt plus the outstanding long term debt of other taxing units that include any of the territory of the political subdivision; divided by



- (ii) the net assessed value of taxable property within the political subdivision.
- (C) The information specified in subdivision (3)(A) through (3)(G).
- (2) If the proper officers of a political subdivision make a preliminary determination to issue bonds or enter into a lease, the officers shall give notice of the preliminary determination by:
  - (A) publication in accordance with IC 5-3-1; and
  - (B) first class mail to the circuit court clerk and to the organizations described in subdivision (1).
- (3) A notice under subdivision (2) of the preliminary determination of the political subdivision to issue bonds or enter into a lease must include the following information:
  - (A) The maximum term of the bonds or lease.
  - (B) The maximum principal amount of the bonds or the maximum lease rental for the lease.
  - (C) The estimated interest rates that will be paid and the total interest costs associated with the bonds or lease.
  - (D) The purpose of the bonds or lease.
  - (E) A statement that the proposed debt service or lease payments must be approved in an election on a local public question held under section 3.6 of this chapter.
  - (F) With respect to bonds issued or a lease entered into to open:
    - (i) a new school facility; or
    - (ii) an existing facility that has not been used for at least three (3) years and that is being reopened to provide additional classroom space;
 

the estimated costs the school corporation expects to annually incur to operate the facility.
  - (G) The following information:**
    - (i) The political subdivision's current debt service levy and rate. and**
    - (ii) The estimated increase to the political subdivision's debt service levy and rate that will result if the political subdivision issues the bonds or enters into the lease.**
    - (iii) The estimated amount of the political subdivision's debt service levy and rate that will result during the following ten (10) years if the political subdivision issues the bonds or enters into the lease, after also considering any changes that will occur to the debt service levy and rate during that period on account of any outstanding**



**bonds or lease obligations that will mature or terminate during that period.**

- (H) The information specified in subdivision (1)(A) through (1)(B).
- (4) After notice is given, a petition requesting the application of the local public question process under section 3.6 of this chapter may be filed by the lesser of:
- (A) five hundred (500) persons who are either owners of property within the political subdivision or registered voters residing within the political subdivision; or
  - (B) five percent (5%) of the registered voters residing within the political subdivision.
- (5) The state board of accounts shall design and, upon request by the county voter registration office, deliver to the county voter registration office or the county voter registration office's designated printer the petition forms to be used solely in the petition process described in this section. The county voter registration office shall issue to an owner or owners of property within the political subdivision or a registered voter residing within the political subdivision the number of petition forms requested by the owner or owners or the registered voter. Each form must be accompanied by instructions detailing the requirements that:
- (A) the carrier and signers must be owners of property or registered voters;
  - (B) the carrier must be a signatory on at least one (1) petition;
  - (C) after the signatures have been collected, the carrier must swear or affirm before a notary public that the carrier witnessed each signature; and
  - (D) govern the closing date for the petition period.
- Persons requesting forms may be required to identify themselves as owners of property or registered voters and may be allowed to pick up additional copies to distribute to other owners of property or registered voters. Each person signing a petition must indicate whether the person is signing the petition as a registered voter within the political subdivision or is signing the petition as the owner of property within the political subdivision. A person who signs a petition as a registered voter must indicate the address at which the person is registered to vote. A person who signs a petition as an owner of property must indicate the address of the property owned by the person in the political subdivision.
- (6) Each petition must be verified under oath by at least one (1)



qualified petitioner in a manner prescribed by the state board of accounts before the petition is filed with the county voter registration office under subdivision (7).

(7) Each petition must be filed with the county voter registration office not more than thirty (30) days after publication under subdivision (2) of the notice of the preliminary determination.

(8) The county voter registration office shall determine whether each person who signed the petition is a registered voter. However, after the county voter registration office has determined that at least five hundred twenty-five (525) persons who signed the petition are registered voters within the political subdivision, the county voter registration office is not required to verify whether the remaining persons who signed the petition are registered voters. If the county voter registration office does not determine that at least five hundred twenty-five (525) persons who signed the petition are registered voters, the county voter registration office, not more than fifteen (15) business days after receiving a petition, shall forward a copy of the petition to the county auditor. Not more than ten (10) business days after receiving the copy of the petition, the county auditor shall provide to the county voter registration office a statement verifying:

(A) whether a person who signed the petition as a registered voter but is not a registered voter, as determined by the county voter registration office, is the owner of property in the political subdivision; and

(B) whether a person who signed the petition as an owner of property within the political subdivision does in fact own property within the political subdivision.

(9) The county voter registration office, not more than ten (10) business days after determining that at least five hundred twenty-five (525) persons who signed the petition are registered voters or after receiving the statement from the county auditor under subdivision (8), as applicable, shall make the final determination of whether a sufficient number of persons have signed the petition. Whenever the name of an individual who signs a petition form as a registered voter contains a minor variation from the name of the registered voter as set forth in the records of the county voter registration office, the signature is presumed to be valid, and there is a presumption that the individual is entitled to sign the petition under this section. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, in determining whether an individual is a registered voter, the county voter registration office



shall apply the requirements and procedures used under IC 3 to determine whether a person is a registered voter for purposes of voting in an election governed by IC 3. However, an individual is not required to comply with the provisions concerning providing proof of identification to be considered a registered voter for purposes of this chapter. A person is entitled to sign a petition only one (1) time in a particular referendum process under this chapter, regardless of whether the person owns more than one (1) parcel of real property, mobile home assessed as personal property, or manufactured home assessed as personal property or a combination of those types of property within the political subdivision and regardless of whether the person is both a registered voter in the political subdivision and the owner of property within the political subdivision. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, if a petition is presented to the county voter registration office within forty-five (45) days before an election, the county voter registration office may defer acting on the petition, and the time requirements under this section for action by the county voter registration office do not begin to run until five (5) days after the date of the election.

(10) The county voter registration office must file a certificate and each petition with:

(A) the township trustee, if the political subdivision is a township, who shall present the petition or petitions to the township board; or

(B) the body that has the authority to authorize the issuance of the bonds or the execution of a lease, if the political subdivision is not a township;

within thirty-five (35) business days of the filing of the petition requesting the referendum process. The certificate must state the number of petitioners who are owners of property within the political subdivision and the number of petitioners who are registered voters residing within the political subdivision.

(11) If a sufficient petition requesting the local public question process is not filed by owners of property or registered voters as set forth in this section, the political subdivision may issue bonds or enter into a lease by following the provisions of law relating to the bonds to be issued or lease to be entered into.

(c) If the proper officers of a political subdivision make a preliminary determination to issue bonds or enter into a lease, the officers shall provide to the county auditor:

(1) a copy of the notice required by subsection (b)(2); and



(2) any other information the county auditor requires to fulfill the county auditor's duties under section 3.6 of this chapter.

SECTION 6. IC 6-1.1-20-3.6, AS AMENDED BY P.L.149-2016, SECTION 25, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2017]: Sec. 3.6. (a) Except as provided in sections 3.7 and 3.8 of this chapter, this section applies only to a controlled project described in section 3.5(a) of this chapter.

(b) If a sufficient petition requesting the application of the local public question process has been filed as set forth in section 3.5 of this chapter, a political subdivision may not impose property taxes to pay debt service on bonds or lease rentals on a lease for a controlled project unless the political subdivision's proposed debt service or lease rental is approved in an election on a local public question held under this section.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (k), the following question shall be submitted to the eligible voters at the election conducted under this section:

"Shall \_\_\_\_\_ (insert the name of the political subdivision) issue bonds or enter into a lease to finance \_\_\_\_\_ (insert a brief description of the controlled project), which is estimated to cost not more than \_\_\_\_\_ (insert the total cost of the project) and is estimated to increase the property tax rate for debt service by \_\_\_\_\_ (insert increase in tax rate as determined by the department of local government finance)?"

The public question must appear on the ballot in the form approved by the county election board. If the political subdivision proposing to issue bonds or enter into a lease is located in more than one (1) county, the county election board of each county shall jointly approve the form of the public question that will appear on the ballot in each county. The form approved by the county election board may differ from the language certified to the county election board by the county auditor. If the county election board approves the language of a public question under this subsection, the county election board shall submit the language to the department of local government finance for review.

(d) The department of local government finance shall review the language of the public question to evaluate whether the description of the controlled project is accurate and is not biased against either a vote in favor of the controlled project or a vote against the controlled project. The department of local government finance may either approve the ballot language as submitted or recommend that the ballot language be modified as necessary to ensure that the description of the controlled project is accurate and is not biased. The department of local



government finance shall certify its approval or recommendations to the county auditor and the county election board not more than ten (10) days after the language of the public question is submitted to the department for review. If the department of local government finance recommends a modification to the ballot language, the county election board shall, after reviewing the recommendations of the department of local government finance, submit modified ballot language to the department for the department's approval or recommendation of any additional modifications. The public question may not be certified by the county auditor under subsection (e) unless the department of local government finance has first certified the department's final approval of the ballot language for the public question.

(e) The county auditor shall certify the finally approved public question under IC 3-10-9-3 to the county election board of each county in which the political subdivision is located. The certification must occur not later than noon:

- (1) seventy-four (74) days before a primary election if the public question is to be placed on the primary or municipal primary election ballot; or
- (2) August 1 if the public question is to be placed on the general or municipal election ballot.

Subject to the certification requirements and deadlines under this subsection and except as provided in subsection ~~(k)~~, (j), the public question shall be placed on the ballot at the next primary election, general election, or municipal election in which all voters of the political subdivision are entitled to vote. However, if a primary election, general election, or municipal election will not be held during the first year in which the public question is eligible to be placed on the ballot under this section and if the political subdivision requests the public question to be placed on the ballot at a special election, the public question shall be placed on the ballot at a special election to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May or November of the year. The certification must occur not later than noon seventy-four (74) days before a special election to be held in May (if the special election is to be held in May) or noon on August 1 (if the special election is to be held in November). The fiscal body of the political subdivision that requests the special election shall pay the costs of holding the special election. The county election board shall give notice under IC 5-3-1 of a special election conducted under this subsection. A special election conducted under this subsection is under the direction of the county election board. The county election board shall take all steps necessary to carry out the special election.





(f) The circuit court clerk shall certify the results of the public question to the following:

(1) The county auditor of each county in which the political subdivision is located.

(2) The department of local government finance.

(g) Subject to the requirements of IC 6-1.1-18.5-8, the political subdivision may issue the proposed bonds or enter into the proposed lease rental if a majority of the eligible voters voting on the public question vote in favor of the public question.

(h) If a majority of the eligible voters voting on the public question vote in opposition to the public question, both of the following apply:

(1) The political subdivision may not issue the proposed bonds or enter into the proposed lease rental.

(2) Another public question under this section on the same or a substantially similar project may not be submitted to the voters earlier than:

**(A) except as provided in clause (B), seven hundred (700) days after the date of the public question; or**

**(B) three hundred fifty (350) days after the date of the election, if a petition that meets the requirements of subsection (m) is submitted to the county auditor.**

(i) IC 3, to the extent not inconsistent with this section, applies to an election held under this section.

(j) A political subdivision may not ~~artificially~~ divide a ~~capital controlled~~ project into ~~multiple capital projects~~ in order to avoid the requirements of this section and section 3.5 of this chapter. A person that owns property within a political subdivision or a person that is a registered voter residing within a political subdivision may file a petition with the department of local government finance objecting that the political subdivision has ~~artificially~~ divided a ~~capital controlled~~ project into ~~multiple~~ **two (2) or more** capital projects in order to avoid the requirements of this section and section 3.5 of this chapter. The petition must be filed not more than ten (10) days after the political subdivision ~~makes the preliminary determination~~ **gives notice of the political subdivision's decision under section 3.5 of this chapter or a determination under section 5 of this chapter** to issue ~~the~~ bonds or enter into ~~the lease leases for the~~ a capital project **that the person believes is the result of a division of a controlled project that is prohibited by this subsection.** If the department of local government finance receives a petition under this subsection, the department shall not later than thirty (30) days after receiving the petition make a final determination on the issue of whether the ~~capital projects were~~



**artificially political subdivision divided a controlled project in order to avoid the requirements of this section and section 3.5 of this chapter. If the department of local government finance determines that a political subdivision divided a controlled project in order to avoid the requirements of this section and section 3.5 of this chapter and the political subdivision continues to desire to proceed with the project, the political subdivision may appeal the determination of the department of local government finance to the Indiana board of tax review. A political subdivision shall be considered to have divided a capital project in order to avoid the requirements of this section and section 3.5 of this chapter if the result of one (1) or more of the subprojects cannot reasonably be considered an independently desirable end in itself without reference to another capital project. This subsection does not prohibit a political subdivision from undertaking a series of capital projects in which the result of each capital project can reasonably be considered an independently desirable end in itself without reference to another capital project.**

(k) This subsection applies to a political subdivision for which a petition requesting a public question has been submitted under section 3.5 of this chapter. The legislative body (as defined in IC 36-1-2-9) of the political subdivision may adopt a resolution to withdraw a controlled project from consideration in a public question. If the legislative body provides a certified copy of the resolution to the county auditor and the county election board not later than sixty-three (63) days before the election at which the public question would be on the ballot, the public question on the controlled project shall not be placed on the ballot and the public question on the controlled project shall not be held, regardless of whether the county auditor has certified the public question to the county election board. If the withdrawal of a public question under this subsection requires the county election board to reprint ballots, the political subdivision withdrawing the public question shall pay the costs of reprinting the ballots. If a political subdivision withdraws a public question under this subsection that would have been held at a special election and the county election board has printed the ballots before the legislative body of the political subdivision provides a certified copy of the withdrawal resolution to the county auditor and the county election board, the political subdivision withdrawing the public question shall pay the costs incurred by the county in printing the ballots. If a public question on a controlled project is withdrawn under this subsection, a public question under this section on the same controlled project or a substantially



similar controlled project may not be submitted to the voters earlier than three hundred fifty (350) days after the date the resolution withdrawing the public question is adopted.

(l) If a public question regarding a controlled project is placed on the ballot to be voted on at an election under this section, the political subdivision shall submit to the department of local government finance, at least thirty (30) days before the election, the following information regarding the proposed controlled project for posting on the department's Internet web site:

- (1) The cost per square foot of any buildings being constructed as part of the controlled project.
- (2) The effect that approval of the controlled project would have on the political subdivision's property tax rate.
- (3) The maximum term of the bonds or lease.
- (4) The maximum principal amount of the bonds or the maximum lease rental for the lease.
- (5) The estimated interest rates that will be paid and the total interest costs associated with the bonds or lease.
- (6) The purpose of the bonds or lease.
- (7) In the case of a controlled project proposed by a school corporation:
  - (A) the current and proposed square footage of school building space per student;
  - (B) enrollment patterns within the school corporation; and
  - (C) the age and condition of the current school facilities.

**(m) If a majority of the eligible voters voting on the public question vote in opposition to the public question, a petition may be submitted to the county auditor to request that the limit under subsection (h)(2)(B) apply to the holding of a subsequent public question by the political subdivision. If such a petition is submitted to the county auditor and is signed by the lesser of:**

- (1) five hundred (500) persons who are either owners of property within the political subdivision or registered voters residing within the political subdivision; or**
- (2) five percent (5%) of the registered voters residing within the political subdivision;**

**the limit under subsection (h)(2)(B) applies to the holding of a second public question by the political subdivision and the limit under subsection (h)(2)(A) does not apply to the holding of a second public question by the political subdivision.**

SECTION 7. IC 20-26-7-46, AS ADDED BY P.L.179-2016, SECTION 8, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE



JULY 1, 2017]: Sec. 46. A person, organization, or other entity that enters into a contract or an agreement with a school corporation to conduct a feasibility or cost study to assist the school corporation in determining the cost of a controlled project as described in ~~IC 6-1.1-20-3.1(a)(2)~~ **IC 6-1.1-20-3.1(a)** or IC 6-1.1-20-3.5(a) may not enter into a contract or agreement as the design professional on the controlled project with the school corporation to complete any part of the controlled project design unless the person, entity, or organization is awarded a contract as the design professional for the controlled project under IC 5-16-11.1.

SECTION 8. IC 20-46-1-11, AS ADDED BY P.L.2-2006, SECTION 169, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2017]: Sec. 11. The voters in a referendum may not approve a levy that is imposed for more than **the following:**

- (1) For a referendum before July 1, 2017, seven (7) years.**
- (2) For a referendum after June 30, 2017, eight (8) years.**

However, a levy may be reimposed or extended under this chapter.

SECTION 9. IC 20-46-1-19, AS AMENDED BY P.L.155-2014, SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2017]: Sec. 19. **(a)** If a majority of the persons who voted in the referendum did not vote "yes" on the referendum question:

- (1) the school corporation may not make any levy for its referendum tax levy fund; and
- (2) another referendum under this section may not be held earlier than:

- (A) except as provided in clause (B), seven hundred (700) days after the date of the referendum; or**
- (B) three hundred fifty (350) days after the date of the referendum, if a petition that meets the requirements of subsection (b) is submitted to the county auditor.**

**(b) If a majority of the persons who voted in the referendum did not vote "yes" on the referendum question, a petition may be submitted to the county auditor to request that the limit under subsection (a)(2)(B) apply to the holding of a subsequent referendum by the school corporation. If such a petition is submitted to the county auditor and is signed by the lesser of:**

- (1) five hundred (500) persons who are either owners of property within the school corporation or registered voters residing within the school corporation; or**
- (2) five percent (5%) of the registered voters residing within the political subdivision;**

**the limit under subsection (a)(2)(B) applies to the holding of a**



**second referendum by the school corporation, and the limit under subsection (a)(2)(A) does not apply to the holding of a second referendum by the school corporation.**

SECTION 10. IC 20-46-7-8, AS AMENDED BY P.L.146-2008, SECTION 509, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2017]: Sec. 8. (a) This section does not apply to the following:

(1) Bonds or lease rental agreements for which a school corporation:

(A) after June 30, 2008, makes a preliminary determination as described in IC 6-1.1-20-3.1 or IC 6-1.1-20-3.5 or a decision as described in IC 6-1.1-20-5; or

(B) in the case of bonds or lease rental agreements not subject to IC 6-1.1-20-3.1, IC 6-1.1-20-3.5, or IC 6-1.1-20-5, adopts a resolution or ordinance authorizing the bonds or lease rental agreement after June 30, 2008.

(2) Repayment from the debt service fund of loans made after June 30, 2008, for the purchase of school buses under IC 20-27-4-5.

(b) A school corporation must file a petition requesting approval from the department of local government finance to:

(1) incur bond indebtedness;

(2) enter into a lease rental agreement; or

(3) repay from the debt service fund loans made for the purchase of school buses under IC 20-27-4-5;

not later than twenty-four (24) months after the first date of publication of notice of a preliminary determination under ~~IC 6-1.1-20-3.1(2)~~, **IC 6-1.1-20-3.1(b)(2)**, unless the school corporation demonstrates that a longer period is reasonable in light of the school corporation's facts and circumstances.

(c) A school corporation must obtain approval from the department of local government finance before the school corporation may:

(1) incur the indebtedness;

(2) enter into the lease agreement; or

(3) repay the school bus purchase loan.

(d) This restriction does not apply to property taxes that a school corporation levies to pay or fund bond or lease rental indebtedness created or incurred before July 1, 1974. In addition, this restriction does not apply to a lease agreement or a purchase agreement entered into between a school corporation and the Indiana bond bank for the lease or purchase of a school bus under IC 5-1.5-4-1(a)(5), if the lease agreement or purchase agreement conforms with the school



corporation's ten (10) year school bus replacement plan approved by the department of local government finance under IC 21-2-11.5-3.1 (before its repeal) or IC 20-46-5.

(e) This section does not apply to school bus purchase loans made by a school corporation that will be repaid solely from the general fund of the school corporation.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
President Pro Tempore

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor of the State of Indiana

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

