

HOUSE BILL No. 1147

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 3-6-5.2-10.

Synopsis: Precinct consolidation. Establishes a small precinct committee (committee) in Lake County to determine if precincts in the county that had fewer than 600 active voters as of October 12, 2016, can be combined with one or more adjoining precincts. Requires the committee to establish a proposed plan to consolidate precincts within the county that is consistent with the standards stated in the statute and submit the proposal to the Lake County board of elections and registration (board). Requires the board to adopt a precinct establishment order implementing the committee's plan. Requires the Indiana election commission to adopt a precinct establishment order if the board fails to do so. Specifies when the establishment order takes effect.

Effective: Upon passage.

Slager

January 5, 2017, read first time and referred to Committee on Elections and Apportionment.



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 BILL No. 1147

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning elections.

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

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 3-6-5.2-10 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
2 AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 UPON PASSAGE]: **Sec. 10. (a) As used in this section, "committee"**
4 **refers to the small precinct committee established by subsection**
5 **(b).**
6 **(b) Effective May 1, 2017, the small precinct committee is**
7 **established in the county.**
8 **(c) The committee consists of the following:**
9 **(1) The director of the board.**
10 **(2) The assistant director of the board.**
11 **(3) Any additional members appointed by unanimous vote of**
12 **the entire membership of the board. If an additional member**
13 **is appointed under this subdivision, the following must apply:**
14 **(A) The additional member must be an employee of the**
15 **board.**
16 **(B) A second additional member must be appointed under**
17 **this subdivision who is:**



- 1 (i) an employee of the board; and
 2 (ii) a member of the major political party in the county
 3 other than the political party of the member described in
 4 clause (A).

5 (d) The committee shall determine the following:

6 (1) Which precincts within the county had fewer than six
 7 hundred (600) active voters (as defined in IC 3-11-18.1-2) as
 8 of October 12, 2016.

9 (2) Whether compliance with the precinct boundary
 10 standards set forth in IC 3-11-1.5-4 or IC 3-11-1.5-5 would
 11 prevent the combination of a precinct described in subdivision

12 (1) with one (1) or more adjoining precincts.

13 (3) The potential savings in the administration of elections
 14 resulting from the combination of precincts under this section.

15 The committee shall establish a proposed plan to consolidate
 16 precincts within the county that is consistent with the standards
 17 stated in this subsection.

18 (e) Not later than noon June 1, 2017, the board shall:

19 (1) adopt a proposed precinct establishment order
 20 implementing the committee's proposed plan under
 21 subsection (d); and

22 (2) file the proposed order with the election division not later
 23 than noon August 1, 2017.

24 (f) If a proposed precinct establishment order is not filed as
 25 provided under subsection (e), the commission shall adopt a
 26 precinct establishment order for the county not later than
 27 September 1, 2017, based on the committee's proposed plan. If the
 28 commission does not have the committee's plan and findings
 29 available, the commission shall adopt an order the commission
 30 considers will do both of the following:

31 (1) Realize savings for the county.

32 (2) Not impose unreasonable obstacles on the ability of the
 33 voters of the county to vote at the polls.

34 (g) If the proposed precinct establishment order is approved
 35 under this chapter, the order takes effect January 1, 2018.
 36 However, if an objection to the proposed order is filed under
 37 IC 3-11-1.5-18, the proposed precinct establishment order takes
 38 effect January 1, 2018, unless at least three (3) members of the
 39 commission affirmatively vote to sustain the objection.

40 (h) This section expires January 1, 2020.

41 SECTION 2. An emergency is declared for this act.

