

HOUSE BILL No. 1353

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 4-4-9.7.

Synopsis: Accommodation of refugees. Allows the office of community and rural affairs (office) to use money in the rural economic development fund to provide grants for use by a nonprofit organization in assisting one or more refugees, or other individuals eligible to receive benefits or services from the Office of Refugee Resettlement of the United States Department of Health and Human Services (eligible individuals), in establishing permanent or temporary residence in an Indiana county that has provided notice to the office of the county's willingness to accommodate refugees or other eligible individuals. Provides for distribution of 90% of a grant to the nonprofit organization that applies for the grant, and 10% of the grant to the county specified in the grant application as the county that will accommodate the refugees or other eligible individuals.

Effective: Upon passage.

DeLaney

January 11, 2022, read first time and referred to Committee on Ways and Means.



Second Regular Session of the 122nd General Assembly (2022)

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 2021 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1353

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

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

1 SECTION 1. IC 4-4-9.7-1.2 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
2 AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 UPON PASSAGE]: **Sec. 1.2. As used in this chapter, "fund" refers**
4 **to the rural economic development fund established by section 9 of**
5 **this chapter.**

6 SECTION 2. IC 4-4-9.7-9, AS AMENDED BY P.L.189-2019,
7 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
8 UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 9. (a) The rural economic development fund
9 is established for the purpose of:

- 10 (1) enhancing and developing rural communities; **and**
- 11 (2) **providing grants under section 10 of this chapter.**

12 The fund shall be administered by the office.

13 (b) The expenses of administering the fund shall be paid from the
14 money in the fund.

15 (c) Notwithstanding IC 5-13, the treasurer of state shall invest the
16 money in the fund not currently needed to meet the obligations of the
17 fund under IC 5-10.3-5. The treasurer of state may contract with



1 investment management professionals, investment advisers, and legal
 2 counsel to assist in the management of the fund and may pay the state
 3 expenses incurred under those contracts.

4 (d) Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not revert
 5 to the state general fund.

6 (e) Money in the fund may be used for the following purposes:

7 (1) To create, assess, and assist a pilot project to enhance the
 8 economic and community development in a rural area.

9 (2) To establish a local revolving loan fund for:

10 (A) an industrial;

11 (B) a commercial;

12 (C) an agricultural; or

13 (D) a tourist;

14 venture.

15 (3) To provide a loan for an economic development project in a
 16 rural area.

17 (4) To provide technical assistance to a rural organization.

18 (5) To assist in the development and creation of a rural
 19 cooperative.

20 (6) To address rural workforce development challenges.

21 (7) To assist in addressing telecommunications needs in a rural
 22 area.

23 (8) To provide funding for rural economic development projects
 24 concerning the following issues:

25 (A) Infrastructure, including water, wastewater, and storm
 26 water infrastructure needs.

27 (B) Housing.

28 (C) Health care.

29 (D) Local planning.

30 (E) Land use.

31 (F) Other rural economic development issues, as determined
 32 by the office.

33 (9) To provide funding for the establishment of new regional rural
 34 development groups and the operation of existing regional rural
 35 development groups.

36 (f) Expenditures from the fund are subject to appropriation by the
 37 general assembly and approval by the office.

38 SECTION 3. IC 4-4-9.7-10 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
 39 AS A **NEW SECTION** TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 40 UPON PASSAGE]: **Sec. 10. (a) The following definitions apply
 41 throughout this section:**

42 (1) "Governing body" means the following:



- 1 (A) The board of county commissioners, for a county not
2 subject to IC 36-3-1.
- 3 (B) The city-county council, for a county containing a
4 consolidated city.
- 5 (2) "Refugee or other eligible individual" means any
6 individual eligible to receive benefits or services from the
7 Office of Refugee Resettlement of the United States
8 Department of Health and Human Services.
- 9 (b) Money in the fund may be used to provide grants to:
- 10 (1) Indiana counties; and
- 11 (2) nonprofit organizations;
- 12 for purposes of assisting refugees or other eligible individuals in
13 establishing permanent or temporary residence in Indiana.
- 14 (c) The office may award a grant under this section to:
- 15 (1) a county whose governing body provides notice to the
16 office of the county's willingness to accommodate refugees or
17 other eligible individuals in the county; and
- 18 (2) a nonprofit organization that submits to the office a grant
19 application that:
- 20 (A) is in the form prescribed by the office; and
- 21 (B) specifies an Indiana county that has provided notice
22 under subdivision (1) as the county in which the grant will
23 be used to assist one (1) or more refugees or other eligible
24 individuals in establishing permanent or temporary
25 residence.
- 26 (d) A grant awarded under this section shall be distributed as
27 follows:
- 28 (1) The office shall distribute ninety percent (90%) of the
29 amount of the grant to the nonprofit organization that applied
30 for the grant.
- 31 (2) The office shall distribute ten percent (10%) of the amount
32 of the grant to the county specified in the grant application.
- 33 (e) A nonprofit organization awarded a grant under this section
34 shall use the nonprofit organization's share of the grant funds to
35 assist one (1) or more refugees or other eligible individuals in
36 establishing permanent or temporary residence in the county
37 specified in the grant application.
- 38 (f) The office shall do the following:
- 39 (1) Adopt guidelines for determining an applicant's eligibility
40 for a grant under this section.
- 41 (2) Prescribe the form for grant applications under this
42 section.



1 **(3) Prepare and supervise the issuance of public information**
2 **concerning the grant program established under this section.**
3 **SECTION 4. An emergency is declared for this act.**

