

HOUSE BILL No. 1440

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 4-4-9.7.

Synopsis: Resettlement of refugees. Provides that, after January 21, 2021, the office of community and rural affairs (office) may use money in the rural economic development fund to provide grants for use by a nonprofit organization in assisting one or more refugees in relocating to an Indiana county that has provided notice to the office of the county's willingness to accommodate refugees. 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 refugee or refugees.

Effective: January 1, 2021 (retroactive).

DeLaney

January 14, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on Government and Regulatory Reform.



First Regular Session of the 122nd General Assembly (2021)

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 2020 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1440

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning state offices and administration.

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 JANUARY 1, 2021 (RETROACTIVE)]: **Sec. 1.2. As used in this**
4 **chapter, "fund" refers to the rural economic development fund**
5 **established by section 9 of 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 JANUARY 1, 2021 (RETROACTIVE)]: Sec. 9. (a) The rural economic
9 development fund 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 JANUARY 1, 2021 (RETROACTIVE)]: **Sec. 10. (a) The following**
 41 **definitions apply 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" has the meaning set forth in 8 U.S.C.
6 1101(a)(42).
- 7 (b) After January 21, 2021, money in the fund may be used to
8 provide grants to:
- 9 (1) Indiana counties; and
10 (2) nonprofit organizations;
11 for purposes of assisting refugees in resettling in Indiana.
- 12 (c) The office may award a grant under this section to:
- 13 (1) a county whose governing body provides notice to the
14 office of the county's willingness to accommodate the
15 resettlement of refugees in the county; and
16 (2) a nonprofit organization that submits to the office a grant
17 application that:
- 18 (A) is in the form prescribed by the office; and
19 (B) specifies an Indiana county that has provided notice
20 under subdivision (1) as the county in which the grant will
21 be used to assist one (1) or more refugees to resettle.
- 22 (d) A grant awarded under this section shall be distributed as
23 follows:
- 24 (1) The office shall distribute ninety percent (90%) of the
25 amount of the grant to the nonprofit organization that applied
26 for the grant.
27 (2) The office shall distribute ten percent (10%) of the amount
28 of the grant to the county specified in the grant application.
- 29 (e) A nonprofit organization awarded a grant under this section
30 shall use the nonprofit organization's share of the grant funds to
31 assist one (1) or more refugees in:
- 32 (1) relocating to; and
33 (2) establishing residence in;
34 the county specified in the grant application.
- 35 (f) The office shall do the following:
- 36 (1) Adopt guidelines for determining an applicant's eligibility
37 for a grant under this section.
38 (2) Prescribe the form for grant applications under this
39 section.
40 (3) Prepare and supervise the issuance of public information
41 concerning the grant program established under this section.
- 42 SECTION 4. An emergency is declared for this act.

