

# HOUSE BILL No. 1604

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## DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 2-5-52.

**Synopsis:** Climate change studies. Creates a commission to study the impact of climate change in Indiana and annually report findings and recommendations to the legislative council and the governor from December 1, 2023, to December 1, 2027.

**Effective:** Upon passage.

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**Hamilton, Clere, Negele,  
Garcia Wilburn**

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January 19, 2023, read first time and referred to Committee on Environmental Affairs.

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First Regular Session of the 123rd General Assembly (2023)

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 2022 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

# HOUSE BILL No. 1604

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

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

1 SECTION 1. IC 2-5-52 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS  
2 A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON  
3 PASSAGE]:

4 **Chapter 52. Climate Change Mitigation and Resilience**  
5 **Commission**

6 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "commission" refers to the**  
7 **climate change mitigation and resilience commission established by**  
8 **section 2 of this chapter.**

9 **Sec. 2. The climate change mitigation and resilience commission**  
10 **is established.**

11 **Sec. 3. The commission consists of the following fifteen (15)**  
12 **members, appointed as follows:**

13 **(1) Two (2) members who have broad experience in electric**  
14 **utility policy, at least one (1) of whom represents utility**  
15 **ratepayers, appointed by the governor.**

16 **(2) One (1) member who represents Purdue's Institute for a**  
17 **Sustainable Future, appointed by the governor.**



- 1           **(3) One (1) member who represents Indiana University's**  
 2           **Environmental Resiliency Institute, appointed by the**  
 3           **governor.**  
 4           **(4) One (1) member who has expertise in renewable energy**  
 5           **technology and deployment, appointed by the governor.**  
 6           **(5) One (1) member who represents the Indiana department**  
 7           **of environmental management, appointed by the governor.**  
 8           **(6) One (1) member who represents the Indiana economic**  
 9           **development corporation, appointed by the governor.**  
 10          **(7) Eight (8) members of the general assembly who are**  
 11          **appointed under section 4 of this chapter.**  
 12          **Sec. 4. Eight (8) members of the general assembly shall be**  
 13          **appointed as members of the commission as follows:**  
 14               **(1) Four (4) members of the senate, appointed as follows:**  
 15                   **(A) Two (2) members appointed by the president pro**  
 16                   **tempore, one (1) of whom shall serve as co-chair of the**  
 17                   **commission.**  
 18                   **(B) Two (2) members appointed by the minority leader of**  
 19                   **the senate.**  
 20               **(2) Four (4) members of the house of representatives,**  
 21               **appointed as follows:**  
 22                   **(A) Two (2) members appointed by the speaker.**  
 23                   **(B) Two (2) members appointed by the minority leader of**  
 24                   **the house of representatives, one (1) of whom shall serve as**  
 25                   **co-chair of the commission.**  
 26          **Sec. 5. (a) Eight (8) members of the commission constitute a**  
 27          **quorum.**  
 28               **(b) The affirmative votes of a majority of the members at a**  
 29               **meeting at which a quorum is present is necessary for the**  
 30               **commission to take official action other than to meet and take**  
 31               **testimony.**  
 32               **(c) The commission shall meet at the call of the co-chairs at least**  
 33               **six (6) times per year.**  
 34          **Sec. 6. The commission is responsible for making all policy**  
 35          **decisions relating to the duties and powers of the commission.**  
 36          **Sec. 7. (a) Each member of the commission who is not a state**  
 37          **employee is entitled to the following:**  
 38               **(1) A minimum salary per diem provided by**  
 39               **IC 4-10-11-2.1(b).**  
 40               **(2) Reimbursement for traveling expenses as provided under**  
 41               **IC 4-13-1-4.**  
 42               **(3) Reimbursement for other expenses incurred in connection**



1 with the member's duties as provided in the state policies and  
 2 procedures established by the Indiana department of  
 3 administration and approved by the budget agency.

4 Expenses incurred under this subsection shall be paid out of the  
 5 funds appropriated from funds appropriated to the legislative  
 6 council.

7 (b) Each member of the commission who is a member of the  
 8 general assembly is entitled to receive the same:

- 9 (1) per diem;  
 10 (2) mileage; and  
 11 (3) travel allowances;

12 paid to members of the general assembly serving on interim study  
 13 committees established by the legislative council.

14 Sec. 8. (a) The commission shall develop a comprehensive report  
 15 with recommendations to achieve the following:

- 16 (1) Systematically mitigate climate change in Indiana.  
 17 (2) Facilitate resilience to the effects of climate change in  
 18 Indiana.  
 19 (3) Simultaneously enhance statewide economic development,  
 20 leveraging the strength of the state's manufacturing sector.

21 (b) The report described in subsection (a) may include the  
 22 following:

- 23 (1) A statewide greenhouse gas emissions inventory.  
 24 (2) A plan to decrease greenhouse gas emissions from the  
 25 electric power sector.  
 26 (3) The identification of adaptation measures to combat the  
 27 damaging impacts of climate change in Indiana.  
 28 (4) Review the current and projected impact of climate  
 29 change on Indiana's agricultural sector, and  
 30 recommendations, including incentives, to support climate  
 31 resilience in the agriculture sector.  
 32 (5) Opportunities to grow Indiana's clean energy  
 33 manufacturing sector, including the following manufacturing  
 34 areas:  
 35 (A) Electric vehicle components (refer to the work of the  
 36 Indiana Electric Vehicle Product Commission).  
 37 (B) Wind turbines.  
 38 (C) Solar panel components.  
 39 (D) Battery storage technology.

40 (6) A plan to decrease the greenhouse gas emissions from  
 41 transportation, including significantly increasing the number  
 42 of registered zero-emission vehicles and supporting increased



1 access to mass transit, as well as safe bike and pedestrian  
 2 infrastructure.  
 3 (7) Review environmental justice and equity issues related to  
 4 the impacts of climate change.  
 5 (8) Review existing agency capacity to leverage current and  
 6 future federal grant dollars to support investments in climate  
 7 mitigation and resilience.  
 8 (c) The commission shall submit an annual report updated each  
 9 year from December 1, 2023, to December 1, 2027, addressing the  
 10 topics discussed under subsection (a) to the following:  
 11 (1) The executive director of the legislative services agency for  
 12 distribution to the members of the general assembly.  
 13 (2) The governor.  
 14 (d) The report must include a description of all activities  
 15 undertaken by the commission during the prior state fiscal year.  
 16 The commission shall submit the report:  
 17 (1) not later than December 1 of each year; and  
 18 (2) in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6.  
 19 Sec. 9. Funds necessary to carry out this chapter shall be  
 20 allotted to the commission from funds appropriated to the  
 21 legislative council.  
 22 Sec. 10. The Indiana department of environmental management  
 23 shall provide staff support to the commission.  
 24 Sec. 11. This chapter expires July 1, 2028.  
 25 SECTION 2. An emergency is declared for this act.

