

SENATE BILL No. 247

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 6-1.1-35.8.

Synopsis: Local government ombudsman. Requires the department of local government finance (DLGF) to establish a local government assistance program and designate an individual to serve as an ombudsman to local governments. Specifies the duties of the ombudsman. Requires the DLGF to report annually regarding activities under the local government assistance program.

Effective: July 1, 2015.

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January 6, 2015, read first time and referred to Committee on Tax & Fiscal Policy.



First Regular Session 119th General Assembly (2015)

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 2014 Regular Session and 2014 Second Regular Technical Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 247

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

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

1 SECTION 1. IC 6-1.1-35.8 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
2 AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2015]:
4 **Chapter 35.8. Local Government Assistance Program**
5 **Sec. 1. The department shall establish a local government**
6 **assistance program.**
7 **Sec. 2. In carrying out the assistance program established under**
8 **this chapter, the department shall do the following:**
9 **(1) Designate an individual to serve as an ombudsman to local**
10 **governments in Indiana. The ombudsman shall:**
11 **(A) serve as a liaison to local governments;**
12 **(B) receive, review, and attempt to resolve complaints**
13 **received from local governments or problems experienced**
14 **by local governments;**
15 **(C) assist local governments with specific budget, taxation,**
16 **or assessment issues that are subject to oversight or**



- 1 approval by the department; and
 2 (D) recommend changes to the commissioner of the
 3 department concerning department policies or practices.
 4 (2) Provide assistance to local governments in identifying and
 5 understanding applicable statutes and rules governing budget,
 6 taxation, or assessment issues.
 7 (3) Coordinate training sessions (including training sessions
 8 under IC 6-1.1-35.2) for local government officials.
- 9 **Sec. 3. (a) The department shall prepare an annual report of the**
 10 **activities conducted under this chapter.**
 11 **(b) The annual report must include the following:**
 12 **(1) The number and types of inquiries received by the**
 13 **assistance program.**
 14 **(2) A summary of the services provided by the assistance**
 15 **program.**
 16 **(c) The annual report shall be distributed in an electronic**
 17 **format under IC 5-14-6 to the following:**
 18 **(1) The legislative council.**
 19 **(2) The interim study committee on fiscal policy established**
 20 **by IC 2-5-1.3-4.**
 21 **(3) The chairpersons and ranking minority members of the**
 22 **house committee on ways and means and the senate**
 23 **committee on tax and fiscal policy.**

