

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.

SENATE ENROLLED ACT No. 344

AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning local government and to make an appropriation.

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

SECTION 1. IC 36-7-39-3.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023]: Sec. 3.5. (a) The northeast Indiana strategic development fund is established for the purpose of carrying out this chapter. The fund shall be administered by the commission.**

(b) The fund consists of the following:

- (1) Fees collected under this chapter.**
- (2) Appropriations.**
- (3) Gifts, contributions, and grants.**

(c) The expenses of administering the fund shall be paid from money in the fund.

(d) The treasurer of state shall invest the money in the fund not currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same manner as other public money may be invested. Interest that accrues from these investments shall be deposited in the fund.

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

(f) Money in the fund is continuously appropriated for the purposes set forth in this chapter.

(g) Money in the fund may not be used for the purposes of expanding or increasing access to broadband.



SECTION 2. IC 36-7-39-4, AS ADDED BY P.L.58-2021, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023]: Sec. 4. The commission is established to develop and implement plans and policies intended to achieve the following purposes in the development area:

- (1) Increase the per capita personal income relative to the national average.
- (2) Increase the population in the development area.
- (3) Increase postsecondary education and credential attainment among residents in the development area.
- (4) Increase the number of new business startups and programs to support entrepreneurs.**
- (5) Incentivize collaboration between K-12 school systems, institutions of higher education, and industry in the development area.**
- (6) Expand access and availability of infrastructure needed to facilitate development and population density in the development area.**
- ~~(4)~~ (7) Perform strategic planning involving all regional efforts for economic development. The strategic planning process shall include collaboration with local economic development organizations as well as all interested parties within the region. The strategic plan shall be completed before September 30, 2021, and each five (5) years thereafter, or more often if the commission deems necessary.

SECTION 3. IC 36-7-39-5, AS ADDED BY P.L.58-2021, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023]: Sec. 5. (a) The commission consists of the following ~~eleven (11)~~ **thirteen (13)** members:

- (1) ~~Nine (9)~~ **Eleven (11)** members who serve two (2) year terms as follows:
 - (A) Three (3) members appointed by the governor. The members appointed under this clause may not all be from the same political party.
 - (B) One (1) member appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.
 - (C) One (1) member appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives.
 - (D) One (1) member appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate.
 - (E) One (1) member appointed by the minority leader of the senate.



(F) ~~Two (2)~~ **Four (4)** members appointed by the mayors and commissioners caucus of the northeast Indiana regional development authority established under IC 36-7.6. **Of the members appointed under this clause, at least two (2) members must be individuals who:**

(i) are involved in a local economic development organization; and

(ii) reside in a county that is located within the development area, with one (1) member from a county that has a population of less than fifty thousand (50,000) and one (1) member from a county that has a population of more than fifty thousand (50,000).

(2) The chief executive officer of the northeast Indiana regional partnership, who serves as a nonvoting member.

(3) The president of the Regional Chamber of Northeast Indiana, who serves as a nonvoting member.

(b) Each member of the commission must reside within the development area.

(c) Not more than three (3) members may reside in the same county.



President of the Senate

President Pro Tempore

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Governor of the State of Indiana

Date: _____ Time: _____

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