

HOUSE BILL No. 1303

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 4-4-44.

Synopsis: Quality of life initiatives grant fund. Establishes the quality of life initiatives grant fund (fund) July 1, 2025, to provide grants to local units for eligible projects. Defines an "eligible project" as a project that would improve the quality of life or quality of place factors for residents of a local unit, including access to child care, health care, and technology, and creation of recreation or green spaces. Requires a local unit to: (1) have a current comprehensive plan; and (2) before choosing an eligible project, collaborate with the community to determine the local unit's priorities for improving the quality of life or quality of place factors for residents; before applying for a grant from the fund. Establishes the fund board to evaluate applications and award grants from the fund. Provides that money in the fund is continuously appropriated. Makes an appropriation.

Effective: July 1, 2025.

Culp, Negele, Pack

January 10, 2024, read first time and referred to Committee on Ways and Means.



Second Regular Session of the 123rd General Assembly (2024)

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 2023 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1303

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

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

1 SECTION 1. IC 4-4-44 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS
2 A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
3 1, 2025]:

4 **Chapter 44. Quality of Life Initiatives Grant Fund**

5 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "board" refers to the quality of**
6 **life initiatives grant fund board established by section 11 of this**
7 **chapter.**

8 **Sec. 2. (a) As used in this chapter, "eligible project" means a**
9 **project that would improve the quality of life or quality of place**
10 **factors for residents of a local unit, including access to child care,**
11 **health care, and technology, and creation of recreation or green**
12 **spaces.**

13 **(b) The term does not include a project that is solely for the**
14 **improvement of a local unit's infrastructure.**

15 **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "fund" means the quality of life**
16 **initiatives grant fund established by section 6 of this chapter.**

17 **Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "local unit" means a county or**



- 1 municipality.
- 2 **Sec. 5. As used in this chapter, "office" means the office of**
- 3 **community and rural affairs established by IC 4-4-9.7-4.**
- 4 **Sec. 6. (a) The quality of life initiatives grant fund is established**
- 5 **to provide grants to local units for eligible projects.**
- 6 **(b) The office shall administer the fund.**
- 7 **(c) The fund consists of the following:**
- 8 **(1) Appropriations by the general assembly.**
- 9 **(2) Interest deposited in the fund under subsection (d).**
- 10 **(3) Money deposited in or transferred to the fund from any**
- 11 **other source.**
- 12 **(d) The treasurer of state shall invest money in the fund not**
- 13 **currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same**
- 14 **manner as other public money may be invested.**
- 15 **(e) Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not**
- 16 **revert to the state general fund.**
- 17 **(f) Money in the fund is continuously appropriated for the**
- 18 **purpose of the fund.**
- 19 **(g) Money in the fund may not be transferred, assigned, or**
- 20 **otherwise removed from the fund by the state board of finance, the**
- 21 **budget agency, or any other agency until after budget committee**
- 22 **review, except that the office may distribute funds to a local unit**
- 23 **that has been approved for a grant under this chapter without**
- 24 **budget committee review.**
- 25 **Sec. 7. There is annually appropriated to the fund two hundred**
- 26 **million dollars (\$200,000,000) from the READI 2.0 fund established**
- 27 **by IC 5-28-43-7.**
- 28 **Sec. 8. A local unit must meet the following requirements before**
- 29 **applying for a grant from the fund:**
- 30 **(1) The local unit must have a current comprehensive plan,**
- 31 **adopted by the local unit under IC 36-7-4.**
- 32 **(2) Before choosing an eligible project, the local unit must**
- 33 **work collaboratively with the community to determine the**
- 34 **local unit's priorities for improving the quality of life or**
- 35 **quality of place factors for residents.**
- 36 **Sec. 9. A local unit must commit to contribute the following**
- 37 **applicable percentage of the total cost of an eligible project:**
- 38 **(1) For a county applicant with a population greater than or**
- 39 **equal to fifty thousand (50,000), fifty percent (50%).**
- 40 **(2) For a county applicant with a population of less than fifty**
- 41 **thousand (50,000), twenty-five percent (25%).**
- 42 **(3) For a city or town applicant with a population greater**



1 than or equal to ten thousand (10,000), fifty percent (50%).

2 (4) For a city or town applicant with a population of less than
3 ten thousand (10,000), twenty-five percent (25%).

4 **Sec. 10. The maximum amount of a grant awarded under this
5 chapter is one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per local unit.**

6 **Sec. 11. (a) The quality of life initiatives grant fund board is
7 established under the executive branch of state government. The
8 board is a continuing board. The purpose of the board is to
9 evaluate applications and award grants from the fund.**

10 **(b) The board consists of the following five (5) members, which
11 shall be appointed by the lieutenant governor:**

12 (1) One (1) county commissioner.

13 (2) One (1) mayor or town official.

14 (3) One (1) representative from the office.

15 (4) One (1) member who has expertise in local planning and
16 zoning.

17 (5) One (1) member who is a resident of Indiana and does not
18 otherwise meet the qualifications of a member appointed
19 under subdivisions (1) through (4).

20 **Members of the board serve for a term that ends on June 30 of an
21 odd-numbered year. Members shall serve at the will of the
22 lieutenant governor and may be reappointed. A vacancy on the
23 board shall be filled by the lieutenant governor, with a member
24 appointed to fill a vacancy having the same qualifications as the
25 previous member and serving for the remainder of the previous
26 member's term.**

27 **(c) The lieutenant governor shall appoint a member of the board
28 to serve as chairperson of the board. The chairperson shall serve
29 at the will of the lieutenant governor and may be reappointed as
30 chairperson.**

31 **(d) The board shall meet at least two (2) times per calendar
32 year. A meeting of the board shall be called by the chairperson. A
33 quorum of the board is not less than three (3) members of the
34 board present.**

35 **(e) Each member is a voting member. The affirmative votes of
36 a majority of the members of the board are required for the board
37 to take action on any measure.**

38 **(f) The office shall staff the board and receive grant applications
39 from local units.**

40 **(g) The expenses of the board shall be paid from the fund.**

41 **(h) Each member of the board who is not a state employee is
42 entitled to the minimum salary per diem provided by**



1 IC 4-10-11-2.1(b). The member is also entitled to reimbursement
2 for mileage and traveling expenses as provided under IC 4-13-1-4
3 and other expenses actually incurred in connection with the
4 member's duties as provided in the state policies and procedures
5 established by the Indiana department of administration and
6 approved by the budget agency.

7 (i) Each member of the board who is a state employee is entitled
8 to reimbursement for mileage and traveling expenses as provided
9 under IC 4-13-1-4 and other expenses actually incurred in
10 connection with the member's duties as provided in the state
11 policies and procedures established by the Indiana department of
12 administration and approved by the budget agency.

13 Sec. 12. (a) In the evaluation of an application for a grant from
14 the fund, the board shall give preference to eligible projects that
15 are anticipated by the board to result in the greatest improvement
16 to the quality of life or quality of place factors for residents of a
17 local unit.

18 (b) The board shall allocate not less than fifty percent (50%) of
19 the amount available to the board to make grants in a state fiscal
20 year to local units located in a county with a population of less than
21 fifty thousand (50,000).

22 (c) The board may adopt guidelines to implement this chapter,
23 including the criteria for selection of local units to be awarded a
24 grant from the fund.

25 Sec. 13. A grant may not be awarded to a local unit for an
26 eligible project if any of the following apply:

27 (1) The local unit has already received a state or federal grant
28 to fund all or part of the eligible project.

29 (2) The local unit intends to use the grant funds to fund a
30 comprehensive plan or a development tool similar to a
31 comprehensive plan.

32 (3) The local unit intends to use the grant funds to complete a
33 facade improvement or beautification project.

34 Sec. 14. A local unit must submit, as part of its application for
35 a grant from the fund, letters of support from community members
36 that collaborated with the local unit in deciding on an eligible
37 project under section 8(2) of this chapter. The letters must include
38 information regarding the ways in which the local unit and
39 community members worked together.

