

HOUSE BILL No. 1417

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 15-11-9-1.2; IC 36-9-27.2.

Synopsis: Agricultural matters. Directs the state department of agriculture (department) to conduct an economic impact study based on the findings of the lost farmland report prepared by the department. Requires the department to oversee and take all actions necessary for the preparation and publication of an updated version of the Indiana Drainage Handbook. Authorizes the department to select a contractor to draft the updated version of the Indiana Drainage Handbook. Requires the secretary of agriculture and rural development to appoint an advisory board to advise the contractor and the department and to review and comment on the structure and the text of drafts of the updated Indiana Drainage Handbook. Provides that the advisory board must include representatives of certain organizations and state agencies and may include other members appointed by the secretary of agriculture and rural development.

Effective: July 1, 2024.

Baird, Aylesworth, Culp

January 16, 2024, read first time and referred to Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development.



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. 1417

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning agriculture and animals.

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

1 SECTION 1. IC 15-11-9-1.2 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
2 AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
3 1, 2024]: **Sec. 1.2. (a) The department shall conduct an economic
4 impact study based on the findings of the lost farmland report
5 described in section 1.1 of this chapter (before its expiration).**
6 **(b) The economic impact study must include an analysis of the
7 economic losses to communities based on every acre of lost
8 farmland previously used for agricultural purposes.**
9 **(c) The department shall issue a report to the legislative council
10 containing the department's findings and recommendations in the
11 economic impact study, including any recommended legislation, in
12 an electronic format under IC 5-14-6 not later than July 1, 2025.**
13 **(d) This section expires December 1, 2025.**
14 SECTION 2. IC 36-9-27.2 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
15 AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
16 JULY 1, 2024]:
17 **Chapter 27.2. Indiana Drainage Handbook**



1 **Sec. 1.** As used in this chapter, "department" refers to the
2 Indiana state department of agriculture.

3 **Sec. 2.** As used in this chapter, "Indiana Drainage Handbook"
4 refers to the publication "Indiana Drainage Handbook: An
5 Administrative and Technical Guide for Activities within Indiana
6 Streams and Ditches", which was prepared by the Christopher B.
7 Burke Engineering company in accordance with P.L.329-1995,
8 published in 1996, and revised and republished in 1999.

9 **Sec. 3. (a)** The department shall oversee and take all actions
10 necessary for the preparation and publication of an updated
11 version of the Indiana Drainage Handbook.

12 **(b)** The department may select a contractor to draft the updated
13 version of the Indiana Drainage Handbook. The contractor
14 selected under this subsection shall be subject to the supervision of
15 the department, and the text developed by the contractor shall be
16 subject to review and comment by the advisory board established
17 by section 4 of this chapter.

18 **Sec. 4. (a)** The secretary of agriculture and rural development
19 shall appoint an Indiana Drainage Handbook advisory board to:

20 **(1)** advise the contractor and the department on the
21 preparation of the updated version of the Indiana Drainage
22 Handbook; and

23 **(2)** review and comment on:

24 **(A)** the structure of; and

25 **(B)** the text of drafts of;

26 the updated version of the Indiana Drainage Handbook.

27 **(b)** The advisory board must include the following:

28 **(1)** A representative of the department.

29 **(2)** A representative of the Indiana County Surveyor's
30 Association.

31 **(3)** A representative of the Indiana Association of County
32 Commissioners.

33 **(4)** A representative of the Indiana Association of Soil and
34 Water Conservation Districts.

35 **(5)** A representative of the American Council of Engineering
36 Companies.

37 **(6)** A representative of the department of natural resources.

38 **(7)** A representative of the department of environmental
39 management.

40 **(8)** A representative of the Indiana Farm Bureau, Inc.

41 **(c)** The secretary of agriculture and rural development:

42 **(1)** shall appoint one (1) member of the advisory board as



- 1 chairperson; and
 2 (2) may appoint to the advisory board other individuals and
 3 representatives of other organizations who, in the judgment
 4 of the secretary of agriculture and rural development, have
 5 knowledge and interests appropriate to membership on the
 6 advisory board.
- 7 (d) A member of the advisory board serves until:
 8 (1) the updated version of the Indiana Drainage Handbook is
 9 published on the website of the department of natural
 10 resources or the state department of agriculture; and
 11 (2) the secretary of agriculture and rural development
 12 declares that the work of the advisory board is concluded.
- 13 (e) The advisory board shall meet at the call of the chairperson.
 14 After the contractor is selected under section 3 of this chapter, the
 15 advisory board:
 16 (1) shall meet at least two (2) times to review the work of the
 17 contractor; and
 18 (2) may meet at other times at the call of the chairperson as
 19 the contractor's work on the updated Indiana Drainage
 20 Handbook progresses.
- 21 (f) The department shall staff the advisory board.
- 22 (g) The expenses of the advisory board shall be paid from funds
 23 appropriated to the department.
- 24 (h) Each member of the advisory board who is not a state
 25 employee is entitled to the minimum salary per diem provided by
 26 IC 4-10-11-2.1(b). The member is also entitled to reimbursement
 27 for traveling expenses as provided under IC 4-13-1-4 and other
 28 expenses actually incurred in connection with the member's duties
 29 as provided in the state policies and procedures established by the
 30 Indiana department of administration and approved by the budget
 31 agency.
- 32 (i) A vacancy on the advisory board shall be filled by
 33 appointment by the secretary of agriculture and rural
 34 development.

