

SENATE BILL No. 426

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 3-8-1; IC 6-1.1-1-24; IC 36-2; IC 36-6-5.

Synopsis: County and township assessor qualifications. Removes assessor-appraiser certification requirements for candidates for the office of county assessor from the election law. Repeals similar requirements in the election law for township assessors. Provides that to be eligible to serve as a county assessor or township assessor, a person must have attained the certification of a level two assessor-appraiser under IC 6-1.1-35.5 before taking office. Provides that a county assessor or township assessor must attain the certification of a level three assessor-appraiser not more than one year after taking office. Specifies that after June 30, 2016, an employee of the county assessor or township assessor who performs real property assessing duties must have attained the certification of a level three assessor-appraiser. Specifies that after June 30, 2016, the county or township fiscal body shall authorize the employment of at least one deputy or employee who has attained certification of a level three assessor-appraiser if the county assessor or township assessor has not attained the level three certification.

Effective: July 1, 2015.

Houchin

January 12, 2015, read first time and referred to Committee on Local Government.



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. 426

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 3-8-1-23, AS AMENDED BY P.L.76-2014,
2 SECTION 12, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2015]: Sec. 23. ~~(a)~~ A candidate for the office of county
4 assessor must:
5 (1) have resided in the county for at least one (1) year before the
6 election, as provided in Article 6, Section 4 of the Constitution of
7 the State of Indiana; **and**
8 (2) own real property located in the county upon taking office.
9 **and**
10 ~~(3) fulfill the requirements of subsections (b) through (d), as~~
11 ~~applicable.~~
12 (b) A candidate for the office of county assessor who runs in an
13 election after June 30, 2008, must have attained the certification of a
14 level two assessor-appraiser under IC 6-1.1-35.5 before taking office.
15 (c) A candidate for the office of county assessor who:
16 (1) did not hold the office of county assessor on January 1, 2012;



1 and

2 (2) runs in an election after January 1, 2012;
3 must have attained the certification of a level three assessor-appraiser
4 under IC 6-1.1-35.5 before taking office.

5 (d) A candidate for the office of county assessor who:

6 (1) held the office of county assessor on January 1, 2012; and

7 (2) runs in an election after January 1, 2016;

8 must have attained the certification of a level three assessor-appraiser
9 under IC 6-1.1-35.5 before taking office.

10 SECTION 2. IC 3-8-1-23.6 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
11 2015]. Sec. 23.6. (a) A candidate for the office of township assessor
12 under IC 36-6-5-1 who runs in an election after June 30, 2008; must
13 have attained the certification of a level two assessor-appraiser under
14 IC 6-1.1-35.5 before taking office.

15 (b) A candidate for the office of township assessor under
16 IC 36-6-5-1 who:

17 (1) did not hold the office of township assessor on January 1,
18 2012; and

19 (2) runs in an election after January 1, 2012;

20 must have attained the certification of a level three assessor-appraiser
21 under IC 6-1.1-35.5 before taking office.

22 (c) A candidate for the office of township assessor under
23 IC 36-6-5-1 who:

24 (1) held the office of township assessor on January 1, 2012; and

25 (2) runs in an election after January 1, 2016;

26 must have attained the certification of a level three assessor-appraiser
27 under IC 6-1.1-35.5 before taking office.

28 SECTION 3. IC 6-1.1-1-24, AS AMENDED BY P.L.1-2010,
29 SECTION 20, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
30 JULY 1, 2015]: Sec. 24. If:

31 **(1) a person elected to the office of township assessor fails to**
32 **attain the certification of a level two assessor-appraiser before**
33 **taking office as required by IC 36-6-5-1(g); and**

34 **(2) the assessment duties prescribed by this article are**
35 **transferred from the township assessor to the county assessor**
36 **under IC 36-2-15-5(c);**

37 a transfer from a township assessor to the county assessor of the
38 assessment duties prescribed by this article results from the failure of
39 a person elected to the office of township assessor to attain the
40 certification of a level two assessor-appraiser as provided in
41 IC 3-8-1-23.6, as described in IC 36-2-15-5(e), a reference to the
42 township assessor in this article is considered to be a reference to the



1 county assessor.

2 SECTION 4. IC 36-2-15-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.88-2005,
3 SECTION 15, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
4 JULY 1, 2015]: Sec. 2. (a) A county assessor shall be elected under
5 IC 3-10-2-13 by the voters of the county.

6 (b) To be eligible to serve as an assessor, a person must ~~meet the~~
7 ~~qualifications prescribed by IC 3-8-1-23~~ **have attained the**
8 **certification of a level two assessor-appraiser under IC 6-1.1-35.5**
9 **before taking office.**

10 (c) A county assessor must reside within the county as provided in
11 Article 6, Section 6 of the Constitution of the State of Indiana. The
12 assessor forfeits office if the assessor ceases to be a resident of the
13 county.

14 (d) The term of office of a county assessor is four (4) years,
15 beginning January 1 after election and continuing until a successor is
16 elected and qualified.

17 (e) **A person elected to the office of county assessor after**
18 **January 1, 2016, must attain the certification of a level three**
19 **assessor-appraiser under IC 6-1.1-35.5 not more than one (1) year**
20 **after taking office.**

21 SECTION 5. IC 36-2-15-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.76-2014,
22 SECTION 65, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
23 JULY 1, 2015]: Sec. 5. (a) The county assessor shall perform the
24 functions assigned by statute to the county assessor, including the
25 following:

26 (1) Countywide equalization.
27 (2) Selection and maintenance of a countywide computer system.
28 (3) Certification of gross assessments to the county auditor.
29 (4) Discovery of omitted property.

30 (5) In:
31 (A) a township in which the transfer of duties of the elected
32 township assessor is required by subsection (c); or
33 (B) a township in which the duties relating to the assessment
34 of tangible property are not required to be performed by a
35 township assessor elected under IC 36-6-5;
36 performance of the assessment duties prescribed by IC 6-1.1.

37 (b) A transfer of duties between assessors does not affect:
38 (1) any assessment, assessment appeal, or other official action
39 made by an assessor before the transfer; or
40 (2) any pending action against, or the rights of any party that may
41 possess a legal claim against, an assessor that is not described in
42 subdivision (1).



1 Any assessment, assessment appeal, or other official action of an
 2 assessor made by the assessor within the scope of the assessor's official
 3 duties before the transfer is considered as having been made by the
 4 assessor to whom the duties are transferred.

5 (c) If

6 ~~(1) for a particular general election after June 30, 2008, the person~~
 7 ~~elected to the office of township assessor has not attained the~~
 8 ~~certification of a level two assessor-appraiser or~~

9 ~~(2) for a particular general election after January 1, 2016, the~~
 10 ~~person elected to the office of township assessor has not attained~~
 11 ~~the certification of a level three assessor-appraiser;~~

12 ~~as provided in IC 3-8-1-23.6~~ before the date the term of office begins,
 13 the assessment duties prescribed by IC 6-1.1 that would otherwise be
 14 performed in the township by the township assessor are transferred to
 15 the county assessor on that date. If assessment duties in a township are
 16 transferred to the county assessor under this subsection, those
 17 assessment duties are transferred back to the township assessor if at a
 18 later election a person who has attained the required level of
 19 certification ~~referred to in subdivision (1) or (2) under IC 36-6-5-1(g)~~
 20 is elected to **and eligible to serve in** the office of township assessor.

21 (d) If assessment duties in a township are transferred to the county
 22 assessor under subsection (c), the office of elected township assessor
 23 remains vacant for the period during which the assessment duties
 24 prescribed by IC 6-1.1 are transferred to the county assessor.

25 (e) A referendum shall be held under sections 7.4 through 11 of this
 26 chapter in each township in which the number of parcels of real
 27 property on January 1, 2008, is at least fifteen thousand (15,000) to
 28 determine whether to transfer to the county assessor the assessment
 29 duties prescribed by IC 6-1.1 that would otherwise be performed by the
 30 elected township assessor of the township.

31 SECTION 6. IC 36-2-16-8, AS AMENDED BY P.L.146-2008,
 32 SECTION 699, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 33 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2015]: Sec. 8. (a) The county assessor may
 34 appoint the number of full-time or part-time deputies and employees
 35 authorized by the county fiscal body.

36 (b) ~~After June 30, 2009, Before July 1, 2016,~~ an employee of the
 37 county assessor who performs real property assessing duties must have
 38 attained the level of certification under IC 6-1.1-35.5 that the county
 39 assessor is required to attain under ~~IC 3-8-1-23:~~ **IC 36-2-15-2(b).**

40 (c) **After June 30, 2016, an employee of the county assessor who**
 41 **performs real property assessing duties must have attained the**
 42 **certification of a level three assessor-appraiser under IC 6-1.1-35.5.**



1 **(d) This subsection applies after June 30, 2016. If the county**
 2 **assessor has not attained the certification of a level three**
 3 **assessor-appraiser under IC 6-1.1-35.5, the county fiscal body shall**
 4 **authorize the appointment of at least one (1) deputy or employee**
 5 **who has attained the certification of a level three**
 6 **assessor-appraiser under IC 6-1.1-35.5.**

7 SECTION 7. IC 36-6-5-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.1-2009,
 8 SECTION 164, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 9 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2015]: Sec. 1. (a) Subject to subsection (g),
 10 before 2009, a township assessor shall be elected under IC 3-10-2-13
 11 by the voters of each township:

12 (1) having:

13 (A) a population of more than eight thousand (8,000); or

14 (B) an elected township assessor or the authority to elect a
 15 township assessor before January 1, 1979; and

16 (2) in which the number of parcels of real property on January 1,
 17 2008, is at least fifteen thousand (15,000).

18 (b) Subject to subsection (g), before 2009, a township assessor shall
 19 be elected under IC 3-10-2-14 (repealed effective July 1, 2008) in each
 20 township:

21 (1) having a population of more than five thousand (5,000) but
 22 not more than eight thousand (8,000), if:

23 (A) the legislative body of the township, by resolution,
 24 declares that the office of township assessor is necessary; and

25 (B) the resolution is filed with the county election board not
 26 later than the first date that a declaration of candidacy may be
 27 filed under IC 3-8-2; and

28 (2) in which the number of parcels of real property on January 1,
 29 2008, is at least fifteen thousand (15,000).

30 (c) Subject to subsection (g), a township government that is created
 31 by merger under IC 36-6-1.5 shall elect only one (1) township assessor
 32 under this section.

33 (d) Subject to subsection (g), after 2008 a township assessor shall
 34 be elected under IC 3-10-2-13 only by the voters of each township in
 35 which:

36 (1) the number of parcels of real property on January 1, 2008, is
 37 at least fifteen thousand (15,000); and

38 (2) the transfer to the county assessor of the assessment duties
 39 prescribed by IC 6-1.1 is disapproved in the referendum under
 40 IC 36-2-15.

41 (e) The township assessor must reside within the township as
 42 provided in Article 6, Section 6 of the Constitution of the State of



1 Indiana. The assessor forfeits office if the assessor ceases to be a
2 resident of the township.

3 (f) The term of office of a township assessor is four (4) years,
4 beginning January 1 after election and continuing until a successor is
5 elected and qualified. However, the term of office of a township
6 assessor elected at a general election in which no other township
7 officer is elected ends on December 31 after the next election in which
8 any other township officer is elected.

9 (g) **A person who runs for the office of township assessor in an**
10 **election after June 30, 2008, is subject to IC 3-8-1-23.6. To be eligible**
11 **to serve as a township assessor, a person must have attained the**
12 **certification of a level two assessor-appraiser under IC 6-1.1-35.5**
13 **before taking office.**

14 (h) After June 30, 2008, the county assessor shall perform the
15 assessment duties prescribed by IC 6-1.1 in a township in which the
16 number of parcels of real property on January 1, 2008, is less than
17 fifteen thousand (15,000).

18 (i) **A person elected to the office of township assessor after**
19 **January 1, 2016, must attain the certification of a level three**
20 **assessor-appraiser under IC 6-1.1-35.5 not more than one (1) year**
21 **after taking office.**

22 SECTION 8. IC 36-6-5-4, AS ADDED BY P.L.146-2008,
23 SECTION 712, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
24 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2015]: Sec. 4. ~~After June 30, 2009;~~ **(a) Before**
25 **July 1, 2016,** an employee of a township assessor who performs real
26 property assessing duties must have attained the level of certification
27 under IC 6-1.1-35.5 that the township assessor is required to attain
28 under ~~IC 3-8-1-23.6;~~ **section 1(g) of this chapter.**

29 **(b) After June 30, 2016, an employee of a township assessor who**
30 **performs real property assessing duties must have attained the**
31 **certification of a level three assessor-appraiser under IC 6-1.1-35.5.**

32 **(c) This subsection applies after June 30, 2016. If the township**
33 **assessor has not attained the certification of a level three**
34 **assessor-appraiser under IC 6-1.1-35.5, the township fiscal body**
35 **shall authorize the appointment of at least one (1) deputy or**
36 **employee who has attained the certification of a level three**
37 **assessor-appraiser under IC 6-1.1-35.5.**

