

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 8159

BILL NUMBER: SB 584

DATE PREPARED: Feb 26, 2001

BILL AMENDED: Feb 26, 2001

SUBJECT: Local Government.

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FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill establishes the Northwestern Indiana Council of Governments for the area consisting of Lake County, Porter County, and LaPorte County. It provides that the Council consists of one person appointed by the executive of each municipality in a participating county, one person appointed by the executive of each participating county, and one person appointed by the Governor. The bill provides that the vote of each member of the Council is weighted according to the population of the area represented by the member. The bill also sets forth provisions governing the meetings and operation of the Council and the election of the council's officers.

This bill provides for the election of an executive board and the appointment of an executive director for the Council. It specifies the powers of the Council. The bill provides that the Council shall prepare and adopt an annual budget for its operation, which shall be apportioned to each participating county on a pro rata per capita basis. The bill also provides that any amount of the adopted budget that exceeds an amount equal to \$0.70 per capita for each participating county is subject to review by the county fiscal body in the usual manner of budget review.

The bill repeals the law governing a regional plan commission in Lake County, Porter County, and LaPorte County, and provides that the regional plan commission shall on July 1, 2001, become the Northwestern Indiana Council of Governments.

Effective Date: Upon passage; July 1, 2001.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: The responsibilities and authority of the Northwestern Indiana Council

of Governments established under this bill are basically the same as they are for the regional planning commission. The budgeting process and tax levy apportionment and tax rate limitations are also the same. The membership of the council is slightly different under the bill, as is the way that votes are weighted.

Currently, the plan commission is comprised of one member from each county executive and each county fiscal body, one member from each of the eight largest municipalities with populations under 50,000 in LaPorte and Porter Counties, one member from each city with a population under 50,000 in Lake County, and one member from each town with the five largest populations in Lake County.

Under the proposal, the Council would be comprised of one member from each county executive and one member from each municipality in the participating counties. Additionally, the Governor would appoint one non-voting member.

There would be 13 additional members on the new Council. Members would not be paid a per diem, but would be reimbursed for expenses. There could be a minimal increase in local expenses for the additional members.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Lake, LaPorte, and Porter Counties and all municipalities within those counties.

Information Sources: