

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

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7060

BILL NUMBER: HB 1205

DATE PREPARED: Jan 2, 2002

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Coroner Continuing Education and Training.

FISCAL ANALYST: Valerie Ruda

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**FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires a county coroner to attend annually one continuing education and training program offered by the Coroners Training Board. The bill also provides that a county coroner who fails to attend a required continuing education and training program is liable to the county for up to \$500.

Effective Date: July 1, 2002.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The continuing education and training programs are to be offered by the Coroners Training Board (CTB). The Coroners Training Board, according to statute, may provide aid for approved deputy coroner training programs that meet the minimum requirements of the CTB. If a coroner's expenses were to be paid by the county from which the coroner is employed, funds from the CTB that could have been used for approved training would not be expended. The Coroners Training Board had total training expenditures for coroners and deputy coroners amounting to \$100,000 in FY 2001. The estimated cost of training includes the following expenditures.

Expenditure	Amount
Hotel for five nights at \$79.00 per night	\$395
Cost of course material	\$500
Per Diem of \$26 X five days	\$130
Travel reimbursement at \$0.28 per mile	Based on total mileage

Explanation of State Revenues: If the county prevails in a civil action enforcing continuing education and training program compliance, then the state General Fund may receive 70% of the \$100 fee (see *Explanation of Local Revenues*).

Explanation of Local Expenditures: This bill requires all county coroners to attend a continuing education and training program on an annual basis. The expenses incurred from attending the programs would be paid from the general funds of the counties from which the coroners serve. These expenses may not exceed the daily amount for meals, lodging, and mileage, as set by statute.

Explanation of Local Revenues: This bill also provides that coroners who fail to attend a continuing education and training program will be held liable for up to \$500. This sum is to be recovered in a civil action sought by the county. Presumably, if the county files a civil action against the coroner and is successful, then the county would collect the \$500 assessment. The fee for filing a case is \$100.

Under IC 33-19-3-1, counties are not required to pay a filing fee in a civil action. However, if the county prevails in a civil action enforcing the compliance with continuing education and training for coroners, then 30% of the \$100 fee could be received by the local general funds in the county where the court action was filed. If the county does not prevail in this court action, no court fee would be collected.

State Agencies Affected: Indiana State Coroners Training Board; Criminal Justice Institute.

Local Agencies Affected: County Coroners; trial courts.

Information Sources: Lisa Barker, Indiana State Coroners' Training Board, (877) 692-7284.