

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7509

BILL NUMBER: SB 289

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 10, 2003

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Petitions to convert a town to a city.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Gard

FIRST SPONSOR: Rep. Cherry

BILL STATUS: As Passed - Senate

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: The bill increases the number of registered voters of a town that are required to sign a petition to put the question of whether a town may become a city on the ballot as a local public question.

Effective Date: July 1, 2003.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Summary:* The bill would increase the amount of registered voters on a petition listed above from 2% to 10% of the total votes cast in the town during the most recent election for Secretary of State. This provision may increase the time spent on verifying a petition but it could also reduce the number of times a local public question is added to a town ballot.

Background: Under current law, a town with a population of at least 2,000 may file a petition to place a public question on the ballot. Currently, the petition must be signed by the number of registered voters of the town equal to 2% of the number of votes cast in that town during the most recent election for Secretary of State. In recent election history, only two towns have placed the question of becoming a city before their voters. There are at least 86 towns that have a population of 2,000 or more in Indiana.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Clerks of the circuit court or county election board of counties with towns having populations of at least 2,000 that successfully petition to place a local question on the ballot.

Information Sources: Indiana Election Division.

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