

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7509**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 289

**NOTE PREPARED:** Apr 8, 2003

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Petitions to convert a town to a city.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Gard

**FIRST SPONSOR:** Rep. Cherry

**BILL STATUS:** CR Adopted - 2<sup>nd</sup> House

**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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