SENATE BILL No. 253

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 4-33-4-19; IC 14-25-10-4; IC 14-26-2.

Synopsis: Activities along shorelines. Requires that a person who performs certain activities concerning water levels, shorelines, and lake beds along a lake or within ten feet of a lake obtain a permit from the department of natural resources. Directs the natural resources commission to adopt rules. Makes conforming changes. Repeals superseded laws concerning permits to change water levels, shorelines, and lake beds.

Effective: July 1, 2006.

Weatherwax

January 9, 2006, read first time and referred to Committee on Natural Resources.
SENATE BILL No. 253

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning natural and cultural resources.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

SECTION 1. IC 4-33-4-19 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2006]: Sec. 19. The commission shall revoke the license of a licensee who operates a riverboat upon Patoka Lake if that licensee violates any of the following:

(1) IC 14-26-2-6.
(2) (1) IC 14-26-2-7.
(2) IC 14-26-2-23.
(3) IC 14-28-1.

SECTION 2. IC 14-25-10-4 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2006]: Sec. 4. Fees received by the department under the following statutes shall be deposited in the fund:

(1) IC 14-26-2-23.
(2) IC 14-26-5-4.
(3) IC 14-28-1-22.
(4) IC 14-29-3-2.
(5) IC 14-29-4-4.
SECTION 3. IC 14-26-2-23 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2006]: Sec. 23. (a) Unless a person
obtains a permit from the department under this section and
conducts the activities according to the terms of the permit, a
person may not conduct the following activities:
   (1) Over, along, or lakeward of the shoreline or waterline of
a public freshwater lake:
      (A) excavate;
      (B) place fill; or
      (C) place, modify, or repair a temporary or permanent
structure.
   (2) If the lowest point of a structure or excavation would be
below the elevation of the shoreline or waterline:
      (A) place a permanent structure; or
      (B) conduct an excavation;
within ten (10) feet landward of the shoreline or waterline, as
measured perpendicularly from the shoreline or waterline of
a public freshwater lake.
   (3) Change the water level, area, or depth of a public
freshwater lake or the location of the shoreline or waterline.
(b) An application for a permit for an activity described in
subsection (a) must be accompanied by the following:
   (1) A nonrefundable fee of one hundred dollars ($100).
   (2) A project plan that provides the department with
sufficient information concerning the proposed excavation,
fill, temporary structure, or permanent structure.
   (3) A written acknowledgment from the landowner that any
additional water area created under the project plan is part
of the lake and is dedicated to the general public use with the
public rights described in section 5 of this chapter.
   (c) The department may issue a permit after investigating the
merits of the application. In determining the merits of the
application, the department may consider any factor, including
cumulative effects of the proposed activity upon the following:
   (1) The shoreline, waterline, or bed of the lake.
   (2) The fish, wildlife, or botanical resources.
   (3) The public rights described in section 5 of this chapter.
   (4) The management of watercraft operations under IC 14-15.
   (5) The interests of a landowner having property rights
abutting the lake or rights to access the lake.
   (d) A contractor or agent of the landowner who engages in an
activity described in subsection (a)(1), (a)(2), or (a)(3) must comply
with the terms of a permit issued under this section.

(e) The commission shall adopt rules in the manner provided in IC 4-10-2-4 under IC 4-22-2 to do the following:

(1) Assist in the administration of this chapter.

(2) Provide objective standards for licensing:

(A) the placement of a temporary or permanent structure or
material; or

(B) the extraction of material;

over, along; or within a shoreline or waterline: issuing permits
under this section, including standards for the configuration
of piers, boat stations, platforms, and similar structures. The
standards:

(A) may provide for a common use if the standard is
needed to accommodate the interests of landowners having
property rights abutting the lake or rights to access the
lake; and

(B) shall exempt any class of activities from licensing if the
commission finds that the class is unlikely to pose more than
a minimal potential for harm to the public rights described in
section 5 of this chapter.

(3) Establish a process under IC 4-21.5 for the mediation of
disputes among riparian owners persons with competing
interests or between a riparian owner person and the department.
concerning the usage of an area over; along; or within a shoreline
or waterline for a matter within the jurisdiction of this chapter.
The A rule adopted under this subsection must provide that:

(A) if good faith mediation under the process fails to achieve
a settlement, the department shall make a determination of the
dispute; and

(B) a person affected by the determination of the department
may seek administrative review by the commission.

SECTION 4. THE FOLLOWING ARE REPEALED [EFFECTIVE
JULY 1, 2006]: IC 14-26-2-6; IC 14-26-2-9.

SECTION 5. [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2006] (a) A permit issued
under IC 14-26-2-6 or IC 14-26-2-9, before their repeal by this act,
is valid and shall be considered a permit issued under
IC 14-26-2-23, as amended by this act. A permit described in this
SECTION expires on the date the permit would have expired if
IC 14-26-2-6 and IC 14-26-2-9 had not been repealed by this act.

(b) This SECTION expires July 1, 2008.