

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

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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6370**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1324

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 9, 2010

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Child Molesting.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Steuerwald

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**  GENERAL  
 DEDICATED  
 FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** The bill elevates child molesting to a Class B felony if the child is compelled to submit to the fondling or touching by force or the threat of force.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2011.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** There are no data available to indicate how many offenders may be convicted of child molesting as a Class B felony if the use of force or the threat of force is added.

A Class B felony is punishable by a prison term ranging from 6 to 20 years, depending upon mitigating and aggravating circumstances. The average expenditure to house an adult offender was \$19,307 in FY 2010. (This does not include the cost of new construction.) If offenders can be housed in existing facilities with no additional staff, the marginal cost for medical care, food, and clothing is approximately \$4,818 annually, or \$13.20 daily, per prisoner. The estimated average cost of housing a juvenile in a state juvenile facility was \$68,260 in FY 2010. The average length of stay in Department of Correction (DOC) facilities for all Class B felony offenders is approximately 3.7 years.

**Explanation of State Revenues:** If additional court cases occur and fines are collected, revenue to both the Common School Fund and the state General Fund would increase. The maximum fine for a Class B felony is \$10,000. Criminal fines are deposited in the Common School Fund.

If the case is filed in a circuit, superior, or county court, 70% of the \$120 criminal costs fee that is assessed and collected when a guilty verdict is entered would be deposited in the state General Fund. If the case is filed in a city or town court, 55% of the fee would be deposited in the state General Fund. In addition, some

or all of the document storage fee (\$2), automated record keeping fee (\$7), judicial salaries fee (\$18), public defense administration fee (\$3), court administration fee (\$5), judicial insurance adjustment fee (\$1), and the DNA sample processing fee (\$1) are deposited into the state General Fund.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** If more defendants are detained in county jails prior to their court hearings, local expenditures for jail operations may increase. The average cost per day is approximately \$44.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:** If additional court actions occur and a guilty verdict is entered, local governments would receive revenue from the following sources: The county general fund would receive 27% of the \$120 criminal costs fee that is assessed in a court of record. Cities and towns maintaining a law enforcement agency that prosecutes at least 50% of its ordinance violations in a court of record may receive 3% of the criminal costs fee. In addition, several additional fees may be collected at the discretion of the judge and depending upon the particular type of criminal case.

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Correction.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

**Information Sources:** Indiana Sheriffs' Association, Department of Correction.

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