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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7424

BILL NUMBER: HB 1333

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 7, 2013

BILL AMENDED: Feb 4, 2013

SUBJECT: County Officials' Training.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Mayfield

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: 2nd Reading - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill requires county treasurers and county auditors elected on November 6, 2012 (in addition to individuals elected after November 6, 2012) to attend training courses approved by the State Board of Accounts. It provides that a county auditor, treasurer, or recorder must fulfill the training requirements for each term to which the officer was elected to the office.

The bill provides that a training course that an individual completes after being elected to the office of county auditor, treasurer, recorder, or surveyor, and before the individual begins serving in office, applies toward the training requirements.

The bill provides that the county elected officials training fund (fund) supplements appropriations from the county general fund for payment of the expenses of the training courses. It adds circuit court clerks as county officials whose training may be paid for by money in the fund.

The bill requires a county surveyor elected after June 30, 2013, to complete at least: (1) 15 hours of training courses within one year; and (2) 40 hours of training courses within three years; after the individual is elected or appointed to that office. It provides that educational courses regarding land surveying taken by a county surveyor who is an actively registered land surveyor count toward the training requirement.

The bill provides that an individual who is appointed to fill a vacancy in one of these county offices may take the training courses but is not required to do so. It provides that if an individual appointed to fill a vacancy in one of these county offices takes a training course, the county is required to pay for the expenses of the training course as if that individual had been an elected county officer.

Effective Date: July 1, 2013.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Summary:* Based on the training requirement under this bill for county officials (treasurers, auditors, recorders, surveyors, and circuit court clerks), and the cost of each classroom course (currently \$75), the cost per individual would be approximately \$600 over a three-year period (less if the some of the classes are taken via the web), not including per diem and traveling costs. There would also be additional costs for continuing education courses. The courses would be paid out of the county general fund supplemented by funds from the county elected officials training fund.

(Revised) *Additional Information:*

Under current law, county treasurers and auditors elected after the general election of 2012, county recorders elected after November 4, 2008, and county court clerks elected after November 2, 2010, are required to complete training sessions developed by the Association of Indiana Counties (AIC) and approved by the State Board of Accounts. This bill extends this requirement to those county treasurers and auditors elected in the 2012 general election. As also mandated by current statute, the bill provides that treasurers, auditors, and recorders complete a minimum of 15 hours of training within one year, and 40 hours within three years of taking office.

The bill also directs that surveyors (elected after June 30, 2013) complete at least 15 hours of training within one year, and 40 hours within three years of taking office. This is an increase from the previous requirement of 24 hours.

Under the bill, county treasurers, auditors, recorders, and surveyors are required to complete the training for each term for which they are elected. Officials who are appointed to fill a vacancy are not required to complete the training classes. However, if they do take a class, the county must pay for the class.

Background Information:

Association of Indiana Counties: The AIC has developed an educational program called AIC Institute for Excellence in County Government. This program gives officials and county employees access to training geared specifically to county government. Program participants must complete 30 credit hours of study within two consecutive years in order to qualify for AIC Institute certification. The association also has continuing education certification open to those who have previously completed their initial certification.

The classes are offered in two formats: webinar and classroom. Costs are approximately \$60 for the web-based class (\$90 for nonmembers) and \$75 for the classroom (\$115 for nonmembers). Each class is five credit hours.

County Elected Officials Training Fund: The county elected officials training fund was established in July 2011. Currently, it is to be used solely to finance the training for county auditors, treasurers, recorders and surveyors. The money for the fund comes from \$0.50 of the \$2 county identification security protection fee the recorder charges for recording or filing a document. Estimates indicate that for the 78 counties for which data

are available a total of approximately of \$270,000 was deposited in their funds in 2011.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: County auditors, treasurers, surveyors, recorders, and circuit court clerks.

Information Sources: Association of Indiana Counties website: <http://www.indianacounties.org>;
Indiana Gateway for Governmental Units: <https://gateway.ifionline.org/>

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