LS 7153
BILL NUMBER: HB 1343
NOTE PREPARED: Feb 18, 2020
BILL AMENDED: Feb 18, 2020
SUBJECT: New Harmony and Wabash River Bridge Authority.
FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Hostettler
FIRST SPONSOR: Sen. Tomes
BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 2nd House
FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
FEDERAL
IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill has the following provisions:

(1) Provides that the New Harmony and Wabash River Bridge Authority (Bridge Authority) and its members, officers, and employees are immune from civil liability resulting from any act or omission related to implementation of the statute that establishes the Bridge Authority.
(2) Provides that the immunity does not extend to a person who commits an act or omits to do an act that amounts to gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct.
(3) Requires the Attorney General to defend the Bridge Authority and its members, officers, and employees if any of these are made a party to a civil suit and the Attorney General determines that the suit has arisen out of an act or omission of any of these authorized or required under the Bridge Authority law or any other law.
(4) Repeals an existing statute in the Bridge Authority law relating to civil immunity.

Effective Date: (Amended) February 17, 2020 (retroactive).

Explanation of State Expenditures: The bill could increase the workload of the Attorney General to the extent a member, officer, or employee of the Bridge Authority is named in a civil liability suit due to an act or omission. Increases in workload are within the routine administrative function of the agency and are expected to be accomplished within existing resource and funding levels.

Explanation of State Revenues: The bill specifies a member, officer, or employee of the Bridge Authority is immune from civil liability except in certain instances. To the extent this bill reduces potential civil filings against Bridge Authority members, officers, or employees, the state would lose revenue from court fees.
Reductions in state revenue from court fees is expected to be very small.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:** Court Fee Revenue: If there is a reduction in civil actions that occur, local governments would receive less revenue from court fees. However, any reduction in revenue is expected to be minimal.

**State Agencies Affected:** Attorney General.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Courts.

**Information Sources:**

**Fiscal Analyst:** Bill Brumbach, 317-232-9559.