

Executive Summary: SEA 361, Sec. 22

SEA 361 is an exciting, first of its kind, economic development tool that enables local communities to directly incentivize out-of-state workers to relocate to Indiana. The law represents an aggressive, Home-Rule-based approach to authorizing local governments to seek the talent they need. SEA 361 is multifaceted in that it can and should be used by all communities whether the community is experiencing growing, stagnate or a declining population.

Central to SEA 361 is recruitment of out-of-state workers. Where those workers locate depends on the community that is seeking talent. With straightforward and unequivocal language, SEA 361 is a tool for communities that need (a) a greater residential population; (b) workers for traditional brick and mortar businesses; or (c) a combination of both. The bill's impact is comprehensive because it authorizes a program established by the Executive (Mayor, County Commission or Town Council President) that incentivizes out-of-state workers, including remote workers to relocate to Indiana--no matter the location of the employees' place of business.

Equally important, SEA 361 authorizes a myriad of local funds to be used for the program. Municipalities may appropriate funds during the annual budget process, use funds allocated for other purposes by moving those funds to the program, accept grants and donations, and reallocate tax increment revenue (TIF) to the program. To allocate funds to the program, regardless of origination, typical, statutory approval processes are followed. However, the law is absolutely clear that most governmental funds are available for use.