



SENATOR  
**JAMES LEWIS**  
116TH INDIANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ★ SENATE DISTRICT 45

**NEWS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release:*  
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**Lewis bill to benefit local port authorities passes through Senate**

INDIANAPOLIS –Legislation sponsored by State Senator Jim Lewis (D-Charlestown) offers changes that will positively affect four ports in the state of Indiana was approved by a 30 to 20 vote in the Senate Tuesday.

House Bill (HB) 1076 eliminates the requirement that a local port authority contract be in the name of the political subdivision creating the authority. The bill also states that the port authority may exercise certain powers independent of any political subdivision and authorizes local port authorities to borrow funds. The legislation will clear up the language clearly defining port authorities as instruments of the state.

The ports in Indiana provide competitive advantages to the companies that move cargo both by water and rail. The legislation would make it easier for port authorities to contract with the railroad companies that transport goods from the ports to manufacturing and agricultural markets.

“This bill is a good for the port authority because it will save money in the borrowing process,” said Sen. Lewis. “It will also give more local authority to the ports to borrow money and simplify the contractual process with the railroad companies that use the ports.”

Sen. Lewis said four of the ports that the legislation would benefit include the Perry County Port Authority, City of Madison Port Authority, Port Authority of Auburn and the Hoosier Hills Port Authority.

HB 1076 will now be sent to the governor to be signed into law.

For more information on Sen. Lewis, his legislative agenda or other State Senate business, call 1-800-382-9467 or visit [www.senatedemocrats.IN.gov](http://www.senatedemocrats.IN.gov).

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