

NEW HARMONY BRIDGE BILL SIGNED AT STATEHOUSE
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For Immediate Release from Indiana State Senator Jim Tomes, District 29

STATEHOUSE (March 23, 2020) — A bill sponsored by State Senator Jim Tomes (R-Wadesville) that grants immunity to members, officers and employees of the New Harmony and Wabash River Bridge Authority recently was signed into law by Gov. Eric Holcomb.

House Enrolled Act 1343 requires the Attorney General of Indiana to defend the Bridge Authority and its members if there is a civil liability lawsuit filed against them.

“I’m happy to see this legislation has been signed into law by the governor,” Tomes said. “HEA 1343 gives the Bridge Authority an additional resource by providing immunity, like any other state agency. I look forward to seeing progress made in the coming months.”

Since the Harmony Way Bridge closed in 2012, citizens have been looking for ways to effectively and safely make the bridge operable again.

When the General Assembly passed legislation in 2018 to transfer the bridge from White County Bridge Commission in Illinois to the New Harmony and Wabash River Bridge Authority, the general transfer did not include the same protections as a state entity, which would allow the Authority to be sued in civil court. That has been corrected with HEA 1343.