



January 8, 2026

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## HOUSE BILL No. 1025

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DIGEST OF HB 1025 (Updated January 7, 2026 12:36 pm - DI 106)

**Citations Affected:** IC 36-1.

**Synopsis:** Residency of public defenders. Provides that a public defender and an employee of a public defender agency may not be subject to a county residency requirement, unless the residency requirement includes all counties contiguous to the county in which the individual serves.

**Effective:** Upon passage.

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## Zimmerman, McNamara, Gore

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December 1, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Courts and Criminal Code.  
January 8, 2026, amended — Do Pass.

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HB 1025—LS 6137/DI 149





January 8, 2026

Second Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2026)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

## HOUSE BILL No. 1025

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A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning local government.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1        SECTION 1. IC 36-1-3-15.6 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
2        AS A **NEW SECTION** TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3        UPON PASSAGE]: **Sec. 15.6. (a) The following may not be subject**  
4        **to a county residency requirement, unless the residency**  
5        **requirement includes all counties contiguous to the county in which**  
6        **the individual serves:**

7            **(1) A public defender.**  
8            **(2) An individual employed by a public defender office or**  
9            **agency.**  
10          **(b) This section does not apply to a chief public defender.**  
11          SECTION 2. **An emergency is declared for this act.**

HB 1025—LS 6137/DI 149



## COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Courts and Criminal Code, to which was referred House Bill 1025, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill be amended as follows:

Page 1, delete lines 7 through 8, begin a new line block indented and insert:

- "(1) A public defender.**
- (2) An individual employed by a public defender office or agency.".**

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to HB 1025 as introduced.)

MCNAMARA

Committee Vote: yeas 12, nays 0.

**HB 1025—LS 6137/DI 149**

