

HOUSE BILL No. 1174

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 12-9-5-3; IC 36-8-29.

Synopsis: Project Lifesaver program requirement for counties. Requires each county to establish and maintain a Project Lifesaver program. Tasks the division of disability and rehabilitative services with ensuring compliance, and requires the division to report to the general assembly.

Effective: July 1, 2026.

Pfaff, Andrade

January 5, 2026, read first time and referred to Committee on Local Government.



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. 1174

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 12-9-5-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.74-2022,
- 2 SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
- 3 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. The division shall administer the following
- 4 programs:
- 5 (1) Programs established under any of the following statutes:
- 6 (A) This article.
- 7 (B) IC 12-11.
- 8 (C) IC 12-12.
- 9 (D) IC 12-12.7.
- 10 (2) Programs under the following statutes, to the extent the
- 11 division has responsibilities for programs under those statutes:
- 12 (A) IC 12-24.
- 13 (B) IC 12-26.
- 14 (C) IC 12-27.
- 15 (D) IC 12-28.
- 16 (E) IC 12-29.
- 17 (F) **IC 36-8-29.**



(3) Supported employment for a person with developmental disabilities.

(4) Epilepsy service centers program.

(5) Epilepsy clinic program.

(6) Medicaid waivers for in-home services for treatment of developmental disabilities.

SECTION 2. IC 36-8-29 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]:

Chapter 29. Project Lifesaver Program

Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "Project Lifesaver" means the community based, public safety, nonprofit organization that provides:

(1) law enforcement agencies;

(2) fire and rescue agencies; and

(3) caregivers;

with a program designed to protect and locate an individual with a cognitive disorder who is prone to wandering behavior.

Sec. 2. Not later than January 1, 2027, a county shall establish and maintain its own Project Lifesaver program.

Sec. 3. The county fiscal body of a county shall appropriate and approve the money necessary for the county to comply with this chapter.

Sec. 4. (a) The division of disability and rehabilitative services shall ensure that a county complies with this chapter.

(b) The division of disability and rehabilitative services shall report, in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6, county compliance to the general assembly not later than March 1, 2027.

(c) The division of disability and rehabilitative services may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to carry out this chapter.

