

HOUSE BILL No. 1310

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 5-2-27.8; IC 12-18; IC 35-33-1-1.5.

Synopsis: Domestic violence investigations. Requires a law enforcement officer to administer a lethality assessment for domestic violence incidents. Requires data to be transmitted to a local domestic violence fatality review team and the statewide domestic violence fatality review committee. Provides that a law enforcement officer responding to the scene of an alleged crime involving domestic or family violence shall use all reasonable means to prevent further violence, including administering a lethality assessment. Provides that all statements communicated in a lethality assessment are not admissible as evidence against the victim in any judicial proceeding and not discoverable in any litigation. Provides that the statewide domestic violence fatality review committee shall collect and analyze data concerning domestic violence lethality assessments. Makes conforming changes.

Effective: July 1, 2026.

Bauer M

January 6, 2026, read first time and referred to Committee on Veterans Affairs and Public Safety.



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. 1310

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning state and local administration.

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

1 SECTION 1. IC 5-2-27.8 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
2 AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2026]:

4 **Chapter 27.8. Domestic Violence Lethality Assessments**

5 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "domestic violence incident"**
6 **means:**

7 (1) domestic battery (as defined in IC 35-42-2-1.3);

8 (2) a crime of domestic violence (as defined in
9 IC 35-31.5-2-78); or

10 (3) another incident where a person has injured or has
11 threatened to injure a family or household member.

12 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "law enforcement agency" has**
13 **the meaning set forth in IC 5-2-17-2.**

14 **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "law enforcement officer" has**
15 **the meaning set forth in IC 5-2-1-2.**

16 **Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "lethality assessment" means an**
17 **assessment that:**



- (1) evaluates the likelihood of serious bodily injury or death;
and
- (2) has been approved by the Domestic Violence Resource for Increasing Safety and Connection.

Sec. 5. When a law enforcement officer:

- (1) responds to a domestic violence incident; or
- (2) has probable cause to believe a domestic violence incident has occurred;

the law enforcement officer shall administer a lethality assessment to an apparent victim.

Sec. 6. (a) The law enforcement officer shall:

- (1) file the lethality assessment with the law enforcement agency; and
- (2) if necessary, immediately connect the apparent victim to victim advocacy services.

(b) Upon receipt of the lethality assessment, the law enforcement agency shall report the information to the following:

- (1) The jurisdiction of the law enforcement agency.
- (2) A local domestic violence fatality review team established under IC 12-18-8-5.
- (3) The statewide domestic violence fatality review committee established under IC 12-18-9-3.

Sec. 7. All statements communicated in a lethality assessment are:

- (1) not admissible as evidence against the victim in any judicial proceeding; and
- (2) not discoverable in any litigation.

SECTION 2. IC 12-18-8-14 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 14. The coalition shall collect and document information surrounding the deaths reviewed by a local domestic violence fatality review team **and domestic violence lethality assessments**. The coalition shall develop a data collection form that includes the following:

- (1) Identifying and nonidentifying information.
- (2) Information regarding the circumstances surrounding a death.
- (3) Factors contributing to a death.
- (4) Findings and recommendations.

SECTION 3. IC 12-18-9-6, AS ADDED BY P.L.258-2017, SECTION 13, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. The statewide domestic violence fatality review committee shall do the following:

- (1) Compile and analyze data recorded by local domestic violence



fatality review teams in reviewing domestic violence fatalities.

(2) Review mortality records and examine all other records relevant to domestic violence fatalities in Indiana.

(3) Assist efforts by local domestic violence fatality review teams by:

(A) overseeing the creation of standardized forms and protocols necessary for the review of domestic violence deaths;

(B) providing expertise by answering questions related to a domestic violence death that a local domestic violence fatality review team is reviewing;

(C) establishing and sponsoring training programs for members of local domestic violence fatality review teams; and

(D) providing, upon request of a local domestic violence fatality review team, expertise in creating local prevention strategies.

(4) Upon request by a local domestic violence fatality review team, assist in or conduct a review of the death or near fatality of a possible domestic violence victim as provided under section 7 of this chapter.

(5) In the absence of a county or regional domestic violence fatality review team established under IC 12-18-8, conduct a review of the death or near fatality of a possible domestic violence victim as provided under section 7 of this chapter.

(6) Create strategies and make recommendations for the prevention of serious injuries or deaths from domestic violence.

(7) Collect and analyze data concerning domestic violence lethality assessments.

SECTION 4. IC 35-33-1-1.5 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1.5. (a) A law enforcement officer responding to the scene of an alleged crime involving domestic or family violence shall use all reasonable means to prevent further violence, including the following:

(1) Transporting or obtaining transportation for the alleged victim and each child to a designated safe place to meet with a domestic violence counselor, local family member, or friend.

(2) Assisting the alleged victim in removing toiletries, medication, and necessary clothing.

(3) Giving the alleged victim immediate and written notice of the rights under IC 35-40.

(4) Administering a lethality assessment under IC 5-2-27.8.

(b) A law enforcement officer may confiscate and remove a firearm,



1 ammunition, or a deadly weapon from the scene if the law enforcement
2 officer has:

3 (1) probable cause to believe that a crime involving domestic or
4 family violence has occurred;

5 (2) a reasonable belief that the firearm, ammunition, or deadly
6 weapon:

7 (A) exposes the victim to an immediate risk of serious bodily
8 injury; or

9 (B) was an instrumentality of the crime involving domestic or
10 family violence; and

11 (3) observed the firearm, ammunition, or deadly weapon at the
12 scene during the response.

13 (c) If a firearm, ammunition, or a deadly weapon is removed from
14 the scene under subsection (b), the law enforcement officer shall
15 provide for the safe storage of the firearm, ammunition, or deadly
16 weapon during the pendency of a proceeding related to the alleged act
17 of domestic or family violence.

