



January 14, 2026

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## HOUSE BILL No. 1357

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DIGEST OF HB 1357 (Updated January 14, 2026 9:27 am - DI 140)

**Citations Affected:** IC 31-26; IC 31-27.

**Synopsis:** Child services provider background checks. Requires an employee of: (1) a preventative provider that operates a child welfare program; (2) a provider of home based family preservation services; (3) a child caring institution; (4) a group home; or (5) a child placing agency; to undergo a background check once every four years.

**Effective:** July 1, 2026.

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January 8, 2026, read first time and referred to Committee on Family, Children and Human Affairs.  
January 14, 2026, reported — Do Pass.

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HB 1357—LS 7076/DI 119





January 14, 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. 1357

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning family law and juvenile law.

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

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 31-26-3.5-5.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA  
2 CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
3 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 5.5. An employee of a**  
4 **preventative provider that operates a child welfare program shall**  
5 **undergo a background check to which the employee is required by**  
6 **federal law to submit for purposes of the employee's provision of**  
7 **child welfare services:**  
8 **(1) not later than four (4) years after the individual's date of**  
9 **hire; and**  
10 **(2) one (1) time every four (4) years thereafter.**  
11 SECTION 2. IC 31-26-5-7 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
12 AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY  
13 1, 2026]: **Sec. 7. An employee of a provider of home based family**  
14 **preservation services shall undergo a background check to which**  
15 **the employee is required by federal law to submit for purposes of**  
16 **the employee's provision of child welfare services:**  
17 **(1) not later than four (4) years after the individual's date of**

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**hire; and**

**(2) one (1) time every four (4) years thereafter.**

SECTION 3. IC 31-27-3-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.81-2025, SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) An applicant must apply for a child caring institution license on forms provided by the department.

(b) An applicant must submit the required information as part of the application.

(c) The applicant must submit with the application a statement attesting the following:

(1) Whether the applicant has been convicted of:

(A) a felony; or

(B) a misdemeanor relating to the health and safety of children.

(2) Whether the applicant has been charged with:

(A) a felony; or

(B) a misdemeanor relating to the health and safety of children;

during the pendency of the application.

(d) The department, on behalf of an applicant, or, at the discretion of the department, an applicant, shall conduct a criminal history check of the following:

(1) Each individual who is an applicant.

(2) The director or manager of a facility where children will be placed.

(3) Each employee or volunteer of the applicant.

(4) Each contractor or individual working in the child caring institution who is likely to have unsupervised contact with children in the child caring institution.

(e) If the applicant conducts a criminal history check under subsection (d), the applicant shall:

(1) maintain records of the information it receives concerning each individual who is the subject of a criminal history check; and

(2) submit to the department a copy of the information it receives concerning each person described in subsection (d)(1) through (d)(4).

(f) If the department conducts a criminal history check on behalf of an applicant under subsection (d), the department shall:

(1) determine whether the subject of a national fingerprint based criminal history check has a record of:

(A) a conviction for a felony;

(B) a conviction for a misdemeanor relating to the health and



- 1 safety of a child; or
- 2 (C) a juvenile adjudication for a nonwaivable offense, as
- 3 defined in IC 31-9-2-84.8 that, if committed by an adult,
- 4 would be a felony;
- 5 (2) notify the applicant of the determination under subdivision (1)
- 6 without identifying a specific offense or other identifying
- 7 information concerning a conviction or juvenile adjudication
- 8 contained in the national criminal history record information;
- 9 (3) submit to the applicant a copy of any state limited criminal
- 10 history report that the department receives on behalf of any person
- 11 described in subsection (d); and
- 12 (4) maintain a record of every report and all information the
- 13 department receives concerning a person described in subsection
- 14 (d).
- 15 (g) Except as provided in subsection (h) **and section 3.5 of this**
- 16 **chapter**, a criminal history check described in subsection (d) is
- 17 required only at the time an application for a new license or the renewal
- 18 of an existing license is submitted.
- 19 (h) Except as provided in subsection (i), a criminal history check of
- 20 each person described in subsection (d)(2), (d)(3), or (d)(4) must be
- 21 completed on or before the date the person:
- 22 (1) is employed;
- 23 (2) is assigned as a volunteer; or
- 24 (3) enters into, or the person's employing entity enters into, a
- 25 contract with the applicant.
- 26 (i) An individual may be employed by a child caring institution as
- 27 an employee, volunteer, or contractor before a criminal history check
- 28 of the individual is completed as required under subsection (h) if all of
- 29 the following conditions are satisfied:
- 30 (1) The following checks have been completed regarding the
- 31 individual:
- 32 (A) A fingerprint based check of national crime information
- 33 data bases under IC 31-9-2-22.5(1).
- 34 (B) A national sex offender registry check under
- 35 IC 31-9-2-22.5(3).
- 36 (C) An in-state local criminal records check under
- 37 IC 31-9-2-22.5(4).
- 38 (D) An in-state child protection index check under
- 39 IC 31-33-26.
- 40 (2) If the individual has resided outside Indiana at any time during
- 41 the five (5) years preceding the individual's date of hiring by the
- 42 child caring institution, the following checks have been requested



1 regarding the individual:

2 (A) An out-of-state child abuse registry check under  
3 IC 31-9-2-22.5(2).

4 (B) An out-of-state local criminal records check under  
5 IC 31-9-2-22.5(4).

6 (3) The individual's employment before the completion of the  
7 criminal history check required under subsection (h) is limited to  
8 training during which the individual:

9 (A) does not have contact with children who are under the care  
10 and control of the child caring institution; and

11 (B) does not have access to records containing information  
12 regarding children who are under the care and control of the  
13 child caring institution.

14 (4) The individual completes an attestation, under penalty of  
15 perjury, disclosing:

16 (A) any abuse or neglect complaints made against the  
17 individual with the child welfare agency of a state other than  
18 Indiana in which the individual resided within the five (5)  
19 years preceding the date of the attestation; and

20 (B) any contact the individual had with a law enforcement  
21 agency in connection with the individual's suspected or alleged  
22 commission of a crime in a state other than Indiana in which  
23 the individual resided within the five (5) years preceding the  
24 date of the attestation.

25 (j) The applicant or facility is responsible for any fees associated  
26 with a criminal history check.

27 (k) The department shall, at the applicant's request, inform the  
28 applicant whether the department has or does not have a record of the  
29 person who is the subject of a criminal history check and if the  
30 department has identified the person as an alleged perpetrator of abuse  
31 or neglect. The department may not provide to the applicant any details  
32 or personally identifying information contained in any child protective  
33 services investigation report.

34 (l) A person who is the subject of a criminal history check  
35 conducted in accordance with this section may request the state police  
36 department to provide the person with a copy of any state or national  
37 criminal history report concerning the person.

38 SECTION 4. IC 31-27-3-3.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
39 AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY  
40 1, 2026]: **Sec. 3.5. An employee of a child caring institution shall**  
41 **undergo a background check to which the employee is required by**  
42 **federal law to submit for purposes of the employee's provision of**



**child welfare services:**

**(1) not later than four (4) years after the individual's date of hire; and**

**(2) one (1) time every four (4) years thereafter.**

SECTION 5. IC 31-27-5-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.81-2025, SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. (a) An applicant must apply for a group home license on forms provided by the department.

(b) An applicant must submit the required information as part of the application.

(c) An applicant must submit with the application a statement attesting the following:

(1) Whether the applicant has been convicted of:

(A) a felony; or

(B) a misdemeanor relating to the health and safety of children.

(2) Whether the applicant has been charged with:

(A) a felony; or

(B) a misdemeanor relating to the health and safety of children;

during the pendency of the application.

(d) The department on behalf of an applicant, or, at the discretion of the department, an applicant, shall conduct a criminal history check of the following:

(1) Each individual who is an applicant.

(2) The director or manager of a facility where children will be placed.

(3) Each employee or volunteer of the applicant.

(4) Each contractor or individual working in the group home who is likely to have unsupervised contact with children in the group home.

(e) If the applicant conducts a criminal history check under subsection (d), the applicant shall:

(1) maintain records of the information it receives concerning each individual who is the subject of a criminal history check; and

(2) submit to the department a copy of the information the applicant receives concerning each person described in subsection (d)(1) through (d)(4).

(f) If the department conducts a criminal history check on behalf of an applicant under subsection (d), the department shall:

(1) determine whether the subject of a national fingerprint based criminal history check has a record of a:



- 1 (A) conviction for a felony;
- 2 (B) conviction for a misdemeanor relating to the health and
- 3 safety of a child; or
- 4 (C) juvenile adjudication for a nonwaivable offense, as defined
- 5 in IC 31-9-2-84.8 that, if committed by an adult, would be a
- 6 felony;
- 7 (2) notify the applicant of the determination under subdivision (1)
- 8 without identifying a specific offense or other identifying
- 9 information concerning a conviction or juvenile adjudication
- 10 contained in the national criminal history record information;
- 11 (3) submit to the applicant a copy of any state limited criminal
- 12 history report that the department receives on behalf of any person
- 13 described in subsection (d); and
- 14 (4) maintain a record of every report and all information it
- 15 receives concerning a person described in subsection (d).
- 16 (g) Except as provided in subsection (h) **and section 4.5 of this**
- 17 **chapter**, a criminal history check described in subsection (d) is
- 18 required only at the time an application for a new license or the renewal
- 19 of an existing license is submitted.
- 20 (h) Except as provided in subsection (i), a criminal history check of
- 21 each person described in subsection (d)(2), (d)(3), or (d)(4) must be
- 22 completed on or before the date the person:
- 23 (1) is employed;
- 24 (2) is assigned as a volunteer; or
- 25 (3) enters into, or the person's employing entity enters into, a
- 26 contract with the applicant.
- 27 (i) An individual may be employed by a group home as an
- 28 employee, volunteer, or contractor before a criminal history check of
- 29 the individual is completed as required under subsection (h) if all of the
- 30 following conditions are satisfied:
- 31 (1) The following checks have been completed regarding the
- 32 individual:
- 33 (A) A fingerprint based check of national crime information
- 34 data bases under IC 31-9-2-22.5(1).
- 35 (B) A national sex offender registry check under
- 36 IC 31-9-2-22.5(3).
- 37 (C) An in-state local criminal records check under
- 38 IC 31-9-2-22.5(4).
- 39 (D) An in-state child protection index check under
- 40 IC 31-33-26.
- 41 (2) If the individual has resided outside Indiana at any time during
- 42 the five (5) years preceding the individual's date of hiring by the





group home, the following checks have been requested regarding the individual:

(A) An out-of-state child abuse registry check under IC 31-9-2-22.5(2).

(B) An out-of-state local criminal records check under IC 31-9-2-22.5(4).

(3) The individual's employment before the completion of the criminal history check required under subsection (h) is limited to training during which the individual:

(A) does not have contact with children who are under the care and control of the group home; and

(B) does not have access to records containing information regarding children who are under the care and control of the group home.

(4) The individual completes an attestation, under penalty of perjury, disclosing:

(A) any abuse or neglect complaints made against the individual with the child welfare agency of a state other than Indiana in which the individual resided within the five (5) years preceding the date of the attestation; and

(B) any contact the individual had with a law enforcement agency in connection with the individual's suspected or alleged commission of a crime in a state other than Indiana in which the individual resided within the five (5) years preceding the date of the attestation.

(j) The applicant is responsible for any fees associated with a criminal history check.

(k) The department shall, at the applicant's request, inform the applicant as to whether the department has or does not have a record of the person who is the subject of a criminal history check and whether the department has identified the person as an alleged perpetrator of abuse or neglect. The department may not provide to the applicant any details or personally identifying information contained in any child protective services investigation report.

(l) A person who is the subject of a criminal history check conducted in accordance with this section may request the state police department to provide the person with a copy of any state or national criminal history report concerning the person.

SECTION 6. IC 31-27-5-4.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 4.5. An employee of a group home shall undergo a background check to which the employee is required by federal law**



1 to submit for purposes of the employee's provision of child welfare  
2 services:

3 (1) not later than four (4) years after the individual's date of  
4 hire; and

5 (2) one (1) time every four (4) years thereafter.

6 SECTION 7. IC 31-27-6-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.173-2022,  
7 SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
8 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) An applicant must apply for a child placing  
9 agency license on forms provided by the department.

10 (b) An applicant must submit the required information as part of the  
11 application.

12 (c) The applicant must submit with the application a statement  
13 attesting the following:

14 (1) Whether the applicant has been convicted of:

15 (A) a felony; or

16 (B) a misdemeanor relating to the health and safety of  
17 children.

18 (2) Whether the applicant has been charged with:

19 (A) a felony; or

20 (B) a misdemeanor relating to the health and safety of  
21 children;

22 during the pendency of the application.

23 (d) The department on behalf of an applicant, or, at the discretion of  
24 the department, an applicant, shall conduct a criminal history check of  
25 the following:

26 (1) Each individual who is an applicant.

27 (2) The director or manager of a facility where children will be  
28 placed.

29 (3) Each employee, volunteer, or contractor of the applicant.

30 (e) If the applicant conducts a criminal history check under  
31 subsection (d), the applicant shall:

32 (1) maintain records of the information it receives concerning  
33 each individual who is the subject of a criminal history check; and

34 (2) submit to the department a copy of the information it receives  
35 concerning each person described in subsection (d)(1) through  
36 (d)(3).

37 (f) If the department conducts a criminal history check on behalf of  
38 an applicant under subsection (d), the department shall:

39 (1) determine whether the subject of a national fingerprint based  
40 criminal history check has a record of a:

41 (A) conviction for a felony;

42 (B) conviction for a misdemeanor relating to the health and



- 1 safety of a child; or
- 2 (C) juvenile adjudication for a nonwaivable offense, as defined
- 3 in IC 31-9-2-84.8 that, if committed by an adult, would be a
- 4 felony;
- 5 (2) notify the applicant of the determination under subdivision (1)
- 6 without identifying a specific offense or other identifying
- 7 information concerning a conviction or juvenile adjudication
- 8 contained in the national criminal history record information;
- 9 (3) submit to the applicant a copy of any state limited criminal
- 10 history report that the department receives on behalf of any person
- 11 described in subsection (d); and
- 12 (4) maintain a record of every report and all information the
- 13 department receives concerning a person described in subsection
- 14 (d).
- 15 (g) Except as provided in subsection (h) **and section 2.5 of this**
- 16 **chapter**, a criminal history check described in subsection (d) is
- 17 required only at the time an application for a new license or the renewal
- 18 of an existing license is submitted.
- 19 (h) Except as provided in subsection (i), a criminal history check of
- 20 each person described in subsection (d)(2) or (d)(3) must be completed
- 21 on or before the date the person:
- 22 (1) is employed;
- 23 (2) is assigned as a volunteer; or
- 24 (3) enters into, or the person's employing entity enters into, a
- 25 contract with the applicant.
- 26 (i) An individual may be employed by a child placing agency as an
- 27 employee, volunteer, or contractor before a criminal history check of
- 28 the individual is completed as required under subsection (h) if all of the
- 29 following conditions are satisfied:
- 30 (1) The following checks have been completed regarding the
- 31 individual:
- 32 (A) A fingerprint based check of national crime information
- 33 data bases under IC 31-9-2-22.5(1).
- 34 (B) A national sex offender registry check under
- 35 IC 31-9-2-22.5(3).
- 36 (C) An in-state local criminal records check under
- 37 IC 31-9-2-22.5(4).
- 38 (D) An in-state child protection index check under
- 39 IC 31-33-26.
- 40 (2) If the individual has resided outside Indiana at any time during
- 41 the five (5) years preceding the individual's date of hiring by the
- 42 child placing agency, the following checks have been requested



1 regarding the individual:

2 (A) An out-of-state child abuse registry check under  
3 IC 31-9-2-22.5(2).

4 (B) An out-of-state local criminal records check under  
5 IC 31-9-2-22.5(4).

6 (3) The individual's employment before the completion of the  
7 criminal history check required under subsection (h) is limited to  
8 training during which the individual:

9 (A) does not have contact with children who are under the care  
10 and control of the child placing agency; and

11 (B) does not have access to records containing information  
12 regarding children who are under the care and control of the  
13 child placing agency.

14 (4) The individual completes an attestation, under penalty of  
15 perjury, disclosing:

16 (A) any abuse or neglect complaints made against the  
17 individual with the child welfare agency of a state other than  
18 Indiana in which the individual resided within the five (5)  
19 years preceding the date of the attestation; and

20 (B) any contact the individual had with a law enforcement  
21 agency in connection with the individual's suspected or alleged  
22 commission of a crime in a state other than Indiana in which  
23 the individual resided within the five (5) years preceding the  
24 date of the attestation.

25 (j) The applicant or facility is responsible for any fees associated  
26 with a criminal history check.

27 (k) The department shall, at the applicant's request, inform the  
28 applicant whether the department has or does not have a record of the  
29 person who is the subject of a criminal history check and if the  
30 department has identified the person as an alleged perpetrator of abuse  
31 or neglect. The department may not provide to the applicant any details  
32 or personally identifying information contained in any child protective  
33 investigation report.

34 (l) A person who is the subject of a criminal history check  
35 conducted in accordance with this section may request the state police  
36 department to provide the person with a copy of any state or national  
37 criminal history report concerning the person.

38 SECTION 8. IC 31-27-6-2.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
39 AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY  
40 1, 2026]: **Sec. 2.5. An employee of a child placing agency shall**  
41 **undergo a background check to which the employee is required by**  
42 **federal law to submit for purposes of the employee's provision of**



- 1 **child welfare services:**
- 2 **(1) not later than four (4) years after the individual's date of**
- 3 **hire; and**
- 4 **(2) one (1) time every four (4) years thereafter.**



COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Family, Children and Human Affairs, to which was referred House Bill 1357, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to HB 1357 as introduced.)

DEVON

Committee Vote: Yeas 11, Nays 0

**HB 1357—LS 7076/DI 119**

