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# HOUSE BILL No. 1357

AM135701 has been incorporated into January 14, 2026 printing.

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**Synopsis:** Child services provider background checks.

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HB 1357—LS 7076/DI 119



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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.

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## 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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- 1           **hire; and**  
 2           **(2) one (1) time every four (4) years thereafter.**  
 3           SECTION 3. IC 31-27-2-14 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA  
 4           CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
 5           [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 14. If an employee of a:**  
 6           **(1) child placing agency (as defined in IC 31-9-2-17.5);**  
 7           **(2) home based provider of family preservation services (as**  
 8           **defined in IC 31-9-2-44.8);**  
 9           **(3) child caring institution (as defined in IC 31-9-2-16.7);**  
 10           **(4) private secure facility (as defined in IC 31-9-2-96.5);**  
 11           **(5) group home (as defined in IC 31-9-2-48.5); or**  
 12           **(6) preventative provider;**  
 13           **has completed a federally required background check to provide**  
 14           **child welfare services, the department may not require the**  
 15           **employee to complete a separate background check for providing**  
 16           **additional child welfare services within four (4) years of the date**  
 17           **on which the employee's most recent federally required**  
 18           **background check to provide child welfare services was completed.**  
 19           SECTION 4. IC 31-27-3-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.81-2025,  
 20           SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 21           JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 3. (a) An applicant must apply for a child caring**  
 22           **institution license on forms provided by the department.**  
 23           **(b) An applicant must submit the required information as part of**  
 24           **the application.**  
 25           **(c) The applicant must submit with the application a statement**  
 26           **attesting the following:**  
 27           **(1) Whether the applicant has been convicted of:**  
 28           **(A) a felony; or**  
 29           **(B) a misdemeanor relating to the health and safety of**  
 30           **children.**  
 31           **(2) Whether the applicant has been charged with:**  
 32           **(A) a felony; or**  
 33           **(B) a misdemeanor relating to the health and safety of**  
 34           **children;**  
 35           **during the pendency of the application.**  
 36           **(d) The department, on behalf of an applicant, or, at the discretion**  
 37           **of the department, an applicant, shall conduct a criminal history check**  
 38           **of the following:**  
 39           **(1) Each individual who is an applicant.**  
 40           **(2) The director or manager of a facility where children will be**  
 41           **placed.**  
 42           **(3) Each employee or volunteer of the applicant.**

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- 1 (4) Each contractor or individual working in the child caring  
 2 institution who is likely to have unsupervised contact with  
 3 children in the child caring institution.
- 4 (e) If the applicant conducts a criminal history check under  
 5 subsection (d), the applicant shall:
- 6 (1) maintain records of the information it receives concerning  
 7 each individual who is the subject of a criminal history check;  
 8 and  
 9 (2) submit to the department a copy of the information it receives  
 10 concerning each person described in subsection (d)(1) through  
 11 (d)(4).
- 12 (f) If the department conducts a criminal history check on behalf  
 13 of an applicant under subsection (d), the department shall:
- 14 (1) determine whether the subject of a national fingerprint based  
 15 criminal history check has a record of:
- 16 (A) a conviction for a felony;  
 17 (B) a conviction for a misdemeanor relating to the health  
 18 and safety of a child; or  
 19 (C) a juvenile adjudication for a nonwaivable offense, as  
 20 defined in IC 31-9-2-84.8 that, if committed by an adult,  
 21 would be a felony;
- 22 (2) notify the applicant of the determination under subdivision  
 23 (1) without identifying a specific offense or other identifying  
 24 information concerning a conviction or juvenile adjudication  
 25 contained in the national criminal history record information;
- 26 (3) submit to the applicant a copy of any state limited criminal  
 27 history report that the department receives on behalf of any  
 28 person described in subsection (d); and  
 29 (4) maintain a record of every report and all information the  
 30 department receives concerning a person described in subsection  
 31 (d).
- 32 (g) Except as provided in subsection (h) **and section 3.5 of this**  
 33 **chapter**, a criminal history check described in subsection (d) is  
 34 required only at the time an application for a new license or the renewal  
 35 of an existing license is submitted.
- 36 (h) Except as provided in subsection (i), a criminal history check  
 37 of each person described in subsection (d)(2), (d)(3), or (d)(4) must be  
 38 completed on or before the date the person:
- 39 (1) is employed;  
 40 (2) is assigned as a volunteer; or  
 41 (3) enters into, or the person's employing entity enters into, a

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- 1 contract with the applicant.
- 2 (i) An individual may be employed by a child caring institution as
- 3 an employee, volunteer, or contractor before a criminal history check
- 4 of the individual is completed as required under subsection (h) if all of
- 5 the following conditions are satisfied:
- 6 (1) The following checks have been completed regarding the
- 7 individual:
- 8 (A) A fingerprint based check of national crime information
- 9 data bases under IC 31-9-2-22.5(1).
- 10 (B) A national sex offender registry check under
- 11 IC 31-9-2-22.5(3).
- 12 (C) An in-state local criminal records check under
- 13 IC 31-9-2-22.5(4).
- 14 (D) An in-state child protection index check under
- 15 IC 31-33-26.
- 16 (2) If the individual has resided outside Indiana at any time
- 17 during the five (5) years preceding the individual's date of hiring
- 18 by the child caring institution, the following checks have been
- 19 requested regarding the individual:
- 20 (A) An out-of-state child abuse registry check under
- 21 IC 31-9-2-22.5(2).
- 22 (B) An out-of-state local criminal records check under
- 23 IC 31-9-2-22.5(4).
- 24 (3) The individual's employment before the completion of the
- 25 criminal history check required under subsection (h) is limited
- 26 to training during which the individual:
- 27 (A) does not have contact with children who are under the
- 28 care and control of the child caring institution; and
- 29 (B) does not have access to records containing information
- 30 regarding children who are under the care and control of the
- 31 child caring institution.
- 32 (4) The individual completes an attestation, under penalty of
- 33 perjury, disclosing:
- 34 (A) any abuse or neglect complaints made against the
- 35 individual with the child welfare agency of a state other
- 36 than Indiana in which the individual resided within the five
- 37 (5) years preceding the date of the attestation; and
- 38 (B) any contact the individual had with a law enforcement
- 39 agency in connection with the individual's suspected or
- 40 alleged commission of a crime in a state other than Indiana
- 41 in which the individual resided within the five (5) years

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1 preceding the date of the attestation.

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

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

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

15 SECTION 5. IC 31-27-3-3.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA  
16 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
17 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 3.5. An employee of a child caring  
18 institution shall undergo a background check to which the  
19 employee is required by federal law to submit for purposes of the  
20 employee's provision of child welfare services:**

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

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

24 SECTION 6. IC 31-27-5-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.81-2025,  
25 SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
26 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. (a) An applicant must apply for a group home  
27 license on forms provided by the department.

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

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

32 (1) Whether the applicant has been convicted of:  
33 (A) a felony; or  
34 (B) a misdemeanor relating to the health and safety of  
35 children.

36 (2) Whether the applicant has been charged with:  
37 (A) a felony; or  
38 (B) a misdemeanor relating to the health and safety of  
39 children;

40 during the pendency of the application.

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

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- 1 of the following:
- 2 (1) Each individual who is an applicant.
- 3 (2) The director or manager of a facility where children will be
- 4 placed.
- 5 (3) Each employee or volunteer of the applicant.
- 6 (4) Each contractor or individual working in the group home
- 7 who is likely to have unsupervised contact with children in the
- 8 group home.
- 9 (e) If the applicant conducts a criminal history check under
- 10 subsection (d), the applicant shall:
- 11 (1) maintain records of the information it receives concerning
- 12 each individual who is the subject of a criminal history check;
- 13 and
- 14 (2) submit to the department a copy of the information the
- 15 applicant receives concerning each person described in
- 16 subsection (d)(1) through (d)(4).
- 17 (f) If the department conducts a criminal history check on behalf
- 18 of an applicant under subsection (d), the department shall:
- 19 (1) determine whether the subject of a national fingerprint based
- 20 criminal history check has a record of a:
- 21 (A) conviction for a felony;
- 22 (B) conviction for a misdemeanor relating to the health and
- 23 safety of a child; or
- 24 (C) juvenile adjudication for a nonwaivable offense, as
- 25 defined in IC 31-9-2-84.8 that, if committed by an adult,
- 26 would be a felony;
- 27 (2) notify the applicant of the determination under subdivision
- 28 (1) without identifying a specific offense or other identifying
- 29 information concerning a conviction or juvenile adjudication
- 30 contained in the national criminal history record information;
- 31 (3) submit to the applicant a copy of any state limited criminal
- 32 history report that the department receives on behalf of any
- 33 person described in subsection (d); and
- 34 (4) maintain a record of every report and all information it
- 35 receives concerning a person described in subsection (d).
- 36 (g) Except as provided in subsection (h) **and section 4.5 of this**
- 37 **chapter**, a criminal history check described in subsection (d) is
- 38 required only at the time an application for a new license or the renewal
- 39 of an existing license is submitted.
- 40 (h) Except as provided in subsection (i), a criminal history check
- 41 of each person described in subsection (d)(2), (d)(3), or (d)(4) must be

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- 1 completed on or before the date the person:
- 2 (1) is employed;
- 3 (2) is assigned as a volunteer; or
- 4 (3) enters into, or the person's employing entity enters into, a
- 5 contract with the applicant.
- 6 (i) An individual may be employed by a group home as an
- 7 employee, volunteer, or contractor before a criminal history check of
- 8 the individual is completed as required under subsection (h) if all of the
- 9 following conditions are satisfied:
- 10 (1) The following checks have been completed regarding the
- 11 individual:
- 12 (A) A fingerprint based check of national crime information
- 13 data bases under IC 31-9-2-22.5(1).
- 14 (B) A national sex offender registry check under
- 15 IC 31-9-2-22.5(3).
- 16 (C) An in-state local criminal records check under
- 17 IC 31-9-2-22.5(4).
- 18 (D) An in-state child protection index check under
- 19 IC 31-33-26.
- 20 (2) If the individual has resided outside Indiana at any time
- 21 during the five (5) years preceding the individual's date of hiring
- 22 by the group home, the following checks have been requested
- 23 regarding the individual:
- 24 (A) An out-of-state child abuse registry check under
- 25 IC 31-9-2-22.5(2).
- 26 (B) An out-of-state local criminal records check under
- 27 IC 31-9-2-22.5(4).
- 28 (3) The individual's employment before the completion of the
- 29 criminal history check required under subsection (h) is limited
- 30 to training during which the individual:
- 31 (A) does not have contact with children who are under the
- 32 care and control of the group home; and
- 33 (B) does not have access to records containing information
- 34 regarding children who are under the care and control of the
- 35 group home.
- 36 (4) The individual completes an attestation, under penalty of
- 37 perjury, disclosing:
- 38 (A) any abuse or neglect complaints made against the
- 39 individual with the child welfare agency of a state other
- 40 than Indiana in which the individual resided within the five
- 41 (5) years preceding the date of the attestation; and

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

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

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

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

19 SECTION 7. IC 31-27-5-4.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA  
20 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
21 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 4.5. An employee of a group home  
22 shall undergo a background check to which the employee is  
23 required by federal law to submit for purposes of the employee's  
24 provision of child welfare services:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

37 (A) a felony; or

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

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

41 (A) a felony; or

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

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- 1 children;  
 2 during the pendency of the application.  
 3 (d) The department on behalf of an applicant, or, at the discretion  
 4 of the department, an applicant, shall conduct a criminal history check  
 5 of the following:  
 6 (1) Each individual who is an applicant.  
 7 (2) The director or manager of a facility where children will be  
 8 placed.  
 9 (3) Each employee, volunteer, or contractor of the applicant.  
 10 (e) If the applicant conducts a criminal history check under  
 11 subsection (d), the applicant shall:  
 12 (1) maintain records of the information it receives concerning  
 13 each individual who is the subject of a criminal history check;  
 14 and  
 15 (2) submit to the department a copy of the information it receives  
 16 concerning each person described in subsection (d)(1) through  
 17 (d)(3).  
 18 (f) If the department conducts a criminal history check on behalf  
 19 of an applicant under subsection (d), the department shall:  
 20 (1) determine whether the subject of a national fingerprint based  
 21 criminal history check has a record of a:  
 22 (A) conviction for a felony;  
 23 (B) conviction for a misdemeanor relating to the health and  
 24 safety of a child; or  
 25 (C) juvenile adjudication for a nonwaivable offense, as  
 26 defined in IC 31-9-2-84.8 that, if committed by an adult,  
 27 would be a felony;  
 28 (2) notify the applicant of the determination under subdivision  
 29 (1) without identifying a specific offense or other identifying  
 30 information concerning a conviction or juvenile adjudication  
 31 contained in the national criminal history record information;  
 32 (3) submit to the applicant a copy of any state limited criminal  
 33 history report that the department receives on behalf of any  
 34 person described in subsection (d); and  
 35 (4) maintain a record of every report and all information the  
 36 department receives concerning a person described in subsection  
 37 (d).  
 38 (g) Except as provided in subsection (h) **and section 2.5 of this**  
 39 **chapter**, a criminal history check described in subsection (d) is  
 40 required only at the time an application for a new license or the renewal  
 41 of an existing license is submitted.

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1 (h) Except as provided in subsection (i), a criminal history check  
2 of each person described in subsection (d)(2) or (d)(3) must be  
3 completed on or before the date the person:

- 4 (1) is employed;
- 5 (2) is assigned as a volunteer; or
- 6 (3) enters into, or the person's employing entity enters into, a  
7 contract with the applicant.

8 (i) An individual may be employed by a child placing agency as  
9 an employee, volunteer, or contractor before a criminal history check  
10 of the individual is completed as required under subsection (h) if all of  
11 the following conditions are satisfied:

12 (1) The following checks have been completed regarding the  
13 individual:

- 14 (A) A fingerprint based check of national crime information  
15 data bases under IC 31-9-2-22.5(1).
- 16 (B) A national sex offender registry check under  
17 IC 31-9-2-22.5(3).
- 18 (C) An in-state local criminal records check under  
19 IC 31-9-2-22.5(4).
- 20 (D) An in-state child protection index check under  
21 IC 31-33-26.

22 (2) If the individual has resided outside Indiana at any time  
23 during the five (5) years preceding the individual's date of hiring  
24 by the child placing agency, the following checks have been  
25 requested regarding the individual:

- 26 (A) An out-of-state child abuse registry check under  
27 IC 31-9-2-22.5(2).
- 28 (B) An out-of-state local criminal records check under  
29 IC 31-9-2-22.5(4).

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

- 33 (A) does not have contact with children who are under the  
34 care and control of the child placing agency; and
- 35 (B) does not have access to records containing information  
36 regarding children who are under the care and control of the  
37 child placing agency.

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

- 40 (A) any abuse or neglect complaints made against the  
41 individual with the child welfare agency of a state other

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

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

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

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

21 SECTION 9. IC 31-27-6-2.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA  
 22 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
 23 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 2.5. An employee of a child**  
 24 **placing agency shall undergo a background check to which the**  
 25 **employee is required by federal law to submit for purposes of the**  
 26 **employee's provision of child welfare services:**

- 27 (1) not later than four (4) years after the individual's date of
- 28 hire; and
- 29 (2) one (1) time every four (4) years thereafter.

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