

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY**  
**OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**  
**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7087**  
**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1363

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 7, 2026  
**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Various Public Safety Matters.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Bartels  
**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**  **GENERAL**  
 **DEDICATED**  
 **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill has the following provisions:

*Law Enforcement Training Board:* The bill provides that the Governor shall appoint the Executive Director of the Law Enforcement Training Board (executive director). It provides that the executive director serves at the Governor's pleasure.

*Special Death Benefit:* This bill provides that a correctional professional is considered a public safety officer for purposes of determining eligibility for line of duty death benefits. (Current law provides that a correctional officer is considered a public safety officer for determining eligibility for line of duty death benefits.)

*Integrated Public Safety Commission:* The bill repeals the Integrated Public Safety Commission. The bill establishes the Indiana Department of Emergency Communications. It also changes the name of the "Integrated Public Safety Communications Fund" to the "Emergency Communications Fund".

*Department of Correction Provisions:* The bill provides a process for certain sex and sex or violent offenders to submit certain information to the Department of Correction (DOC) regarding sex offender status in other states or jurisdictions.

The bill provides that if: (1) the DOC releases a child who is a ward of the DOC; and (2) the child is less than 18 years of age; the DOC's wardship of the child ends. It provides that if a child who is a ward of the DOC is released and no parent or guardian allows the child to live with them, the DOC must immediately notify a certain court that the child needs to be a ward of the Department of Child Services.

The bill provides that the DOC is not required to send certain notices sent by offenders within the jurisdiction of the DOC by registered or certified mail.

The bill makes it a Class B misdemeanor for a person to knowingly or intentionally possess an imitation

firearm: (1) in or on school property; or (2) on a school bus.

The bill makes conforming changes.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2026.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *Special Death Benefit:* The bill expands coverage to correctional professionals that die in the line of duty while serving on state active duty. If such a death occurs, it would increase expenditures from the Special Death Benefit Fund. The survivors of an individual who dies in the line of duty receive a benefit amount of \$225,000. As of June 30, 2025, the balance in the Special Death benefit Fund totaled \$7.5 M. [Correctional professional includes a correctional officer, correctional police officer, or any employee of the Department of Correction.] The Indiana Public Retirement System administers the Special Death Benefit Fund. The costs of administering the fund are paid from the fund.

*Integrated Public Safety Commission (IPSC):* The bill repeals IPSC and establishes the Indiana Department of Emergency Communications. The bill specifies that all obligations and assets are transferred to the new department. The IPSC had 39 active employees as of January 1, 2026. The bill also establishes the new Emergency Communications Fund and transfers all funding from the IPSC dedicated fund. The IPSC dedicated fund received \$14.9 M in FY 2026 and FY 2027, and has a fund balance of approximately \$9 M as of January 3, 2026.

*Department of Correction Provisions:* The bill modifies the definition of sex or violent offender, which could increase the number of individuals required to register. This change would increase the workload of DOC staff responsible for maintaining the Indiana Sex and Violent Offender Registry.

The bill could increase the workload of the Department of Child Services (DCS) by requiring the department to find permanent housing for older youth released from the DOC facilities who lack permanent living arrangements. As a result, the number of older youth placed in foster care, group homes, or residential facilities could increase.

The requirements to notify the appropriate court of a child's discharge from custody and transfer to DCS is expect to have a minimal impact on the DOC's workload.

*Law Enforcement Training Board:* The provision of this bill that removes the authority and responsibility of the Law Enforcement Training Board (LETB) to select its executive director will decrease the workload for the LETB. The bill also removes the defined 4-year term of service for the executive director and specifies that the Governor may remove a sitting executive director and appoint a new one at will. If provisions of the bill results in additional turnover in executive directors, the LETB will incur additional direct and indirect costs associated with onboarding and orientation of a new director. The net effect of the bill's provisions on the LETB is likely to be a slight increase in expenditures that can be met within existing resources.

**Explanation of State Revenues:** *Imitation Firearms:* This bill creates a new Class B misdemeanor which may result in additional court cases. If additional court cases occur and fines are collected, revenue to both the Common School Fund and the state General Fund would increase. The maximum fine for a Class B misdemeanor is \$1,000. Criminal fines are deposited in the Common School Fund. The total fee revenue per case would range between \$113 and \$138. The amount of court fees deposited will vary depending on whether the case is filed in a court of record or a municipal court. The following linked document describes

the fees and distribution of the revenue: [Court fees imposed in criminal, juvenile, and civil violation cases.](#)

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** *Sex or Violent Offenders:* By expanding the definition of a sex or violent offender, the bill could increase the workload of county sheriffs responsible for monitoring registered offenders at the county level.

*Imitation Firearms:* A Class B misdemeanor is punishable by up to 180 days in jail. The Gateway reports show that in CY 2023, housing offenders in 33 Indiana county jails cost an average of \$56 to \$79 per day.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:** *Imitation Firearms:* If additional court actions occur and a guilty verdict is entered, more revenue will be collected by certain local units. If the case is filed in a court of record, the county general fund will receive \$47.40 and qualifying municipalities will receive a share of \$3.60. If the case is filed in a municipal court, the county receives \$30, and the municipality will receive \$46. The following linked document describes the fees and distribution of the revenue: [Court fees imposed in criminal, juvenile, and civil violation cases.](#)

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Correction; Department of Child Services; Indiana Public Retirement System; Office of the Governor; Law Enforcement Training Board.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

**Information Sources:** Indiana Sheriffs' Association, Indiana Supreme Court, Indiana Trial Court Fee Manual; Department of Correction; Indiana Gateway for Government Units, 2023 Annual Financial Reports, <https://gateway.ifionline.org/public/download.aspx> Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2023 Annual Survey of Jails Data Series, <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/NACJD/series/7>; HEA 1001-2025; Indiana Transparency Portal; State Personnel Department Staffing Data.

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