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# HOUSE BILL No. 1414

AM141406 has been incorporated into introduced printing.

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**Synopsis:** Forest management.

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2026

IN 1414—LS 6924/DI 150



**DOCUMENT HAS NOT BEEN CHECKED FOR ACCURACY**

Introduced

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. 1414

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning  
natural and cultural resources.

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

- 1           SECTION 1. IC 14-22-10-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.113-2019,  
2           SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3           JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) As used in this section and section 2.5 of  
4           this chapter, "governmental entity" means any of the following:  
5               (1) The government of the United States of America.  
6               (2) The state.  
7               (3) A county.  
8               (4) A city.  
9               (5) A town.  
10              (6) A township.  
11              (7) The following, if created by the Constitution of the United  
12              States, the Constitution of the State of Indiana, a statute, a  
13              ordinance, a rule, or an order:  
14                    (A) An agency.  
15                    (B) A board.

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- 1 (C) A commission.  
 2 (D) A committee.  
 3 (E) A council.  
 4 (F) A department.  
 5 (G) A district.  
 6 (H) A public body corporate and politic.
- 7 (b) As used in this section and section 2.5 of this chapter,  
 8 "monetary consideration" means a fee or other charge for permission  
 9 to go upon a tract of land. The term does not include:  
 10 (1) the gratuitous sharing of game, fish, or other products of the  
 11 recreational use of the land;  
 12 (2) services rendered for the purpose of wildlife management; or  
 13 (3) contributions in kind made for the purpose of wildlife  
 14 management.
- 15 (c) As used in this section and section 2.5 of this chapter, "owner"  
 16 means a governmental entity or another person that:  
 17 (1) has a fee interest in;  
 18 (2) is a tenant, a lessee, or an occupant of; or  
 19 (3) is in control of;  
 20 a tract of land.
- 21 (d) A person who goes upon or through the premises, including  
 22 caves, of another:  
 23 (1) with or without permission; and  
 24 (2) either:  
 25 (A) without the payment of monetary consideration; or  
 26 (B) with the payment of monetary consideration directly or  
 27 indirectly on the person's behalf by an agency of the state or  
 28 federal government;
- 29 for the purpose of swimming, camping, hiking, sightseeing, **exercising,**  
 30 **cycling,** or accessing or departing from a trail, a greenway, or another  
 31 similar area, or for any other purpose (other than the purposes  
 32 described in section 2.5 of this chapter) ~~does not have an assurance that~~  
 33 ~~the premises are safe for the purpose. is subject to the limitations of~~  
 34 **liability granted to the owner of the premises described in**  
 35 **subsection (e).**
- 36 (e) The owner of the premises does not  
 37 ~~(1) assume responsibility; or~~  
 38 ~~(2) incur liability;~~  
 39 ~~for an injury to a person or property caused by an act or failure to act~~  
 40 ~~of other persons using the premises. assume responsibility or incur~~  
 41 **liability for an injury or damage to a:**

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(1) person caused by:

(A) an act; or

(B) the failure to act;

of another person using the premises;

(2) person caused by a condition on the land; or

(3) person's property caused by:

(A) the act of another person using the premises; or

(B) a condition on the land.

(f) This section does not affect the following:

~~(1) Existing Indiana case law on the liability of owners or possessors of premises with respect to the following:~~

~~(A) Business invitees in commercial establishments.~~

~~(B) Invited guests.~~

**(1) Business invitees in for-profit establishments.**

(2) The attractive nuisance doctrine.

(g) This section does not excuse the owner or occupant of premises from liability for injury to a person or property caused by a malicious or an illegal act of the owner or occupant.

SECTION 2. IC 14-23-1-1 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. The department shall do the following:

(1) Have the care, custody, and control of the forest land owned by the state, exclusive of state parks.

(2) Adopt necessary rules to properly enforce this chapter.

(3) Establish, operate, and maintain nurseries for the production of trees to be used in reforestation. The trees may be:

(A) used to reforest land owned by the state;

(B) supplied to owners of private land at a price not exceeding cost of production; or

(C) used for planting on public roads or land under the terms that are considered by the department to be for the public benefit.

(4) Prepare, print, post, or distribute printed matter relating to forestry.

(5) Make investigations or experiments with regard to forestry questions.

(6) Subject to the approval of the governor, purchase land and forests. For the purpose of acquiring land and forests, the commission may exercise the right of eminent domain in the manner provided in IC 14-17-3.

(7) Receive and accept, in the name of the people of Indiana, by gift or devise, the fee or other estate in land or forests.



(8) Examine the forest land owned by the state or by a state institution for the purpose of advising and cooperating in securing proper forest management of the land.

(9) Employ, with approval of the authorities having control of the state penal institutions, convicts committed to a penal institution for the purpose of producing or planting trees, building roads, or doing other work in the forests and in clearing, draining, or developing land purchased or acquired by the state for forestry purposes.

(10) Propagate trees and shrubs for state institutions or for planting along highways. A common carrier may transport trees or shrubs grown by the state at a rate less than the established tariff to and from points within Indiana.

(11) Have the custody of all abstracts of title, papers, contracts, or related memoranda, except original deeds to the state, for land purchased or received under this section.

(12) Examine private forest land:

(A) upon request of; and

(B) at the expense of;

the owner for the purpose of advising the owner on the proper methods of forest management.

**(13) Establish recreational fees for individuals accessing and using state forest land.**

**(14) Investigate new revenue raising methods to help carry out the purposes described in IC 14-23-3-4.**

**(15) Ensure at all times that ten percent (10%) of state forest acreage consists of forests that are one hundred (100) years or older.**

**(16) Ensure at all times that ten percent (10%) of state forest acreage consists of forests that are twenty (20) years or younger.**

SECTION 3. IC 14-23-3-5 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. (a) All income derived from:

(1) the sale of state forest land; ~~or~~

(2) the ~~sale of~~ products ~~of from~~ state forest land; ~~or~~

(3) recreational fees for accessing and using state forest land;

shall be deposited in the fund.

(b) Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not revert to the state general fund.

