



January 13, 2026

SENATE BILL No. 15

DIGEST OF SB 15 (Updated January 12, 2026 11:41 am - DI 140)

Citations Affected: IC 14-19; IC 27-1; IC 28-1; IC 31-9; IC 31-25; IC 31-33.

Synopsis: Foster youth. Requires the department of child services to: (1) create a statement called "the foster youth bill of rights", which is to summarize a foster youth's rights and responsibilities; (2) update the statement periodically; (3) distribute the statement to certain individuals; and (4) publish the statement on the department's website. Defines "foster youth" for purposes of the foster youth bill of rights. Makes conforming changes.

Effective: July 1, 2026.

**Walker K, Walker G, Goode,
Hunley, Becker, Jackson L, Ford J.D.**

December 8, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Family and Children Services.
January 12, 2026, reported favorably — Do Pass.

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January 13, 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.

SENATE BILL No. 15

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 14-19-3-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.213-2025,
2 SECTION 130, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
3 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) The department may not
4 charge a price of admission to:

5 (1) inpatients of state or federally owned or operated hospitals or
6 institutions and their supervisors;

7 (2) foster families who reside together in the same foster family
8 home licensed under IC 31-27-4;

9 (3) individuals who meet the definition of foster youth set forth in
10 ~~IC 31-9-2-47.3; IC 31-9-2-47.3(a);~~ or

11 (4) a Gold Star family member who displays:

12 (A) an Indiana Gold Star family member license plate under
13 IC 9-18.5-33; or

14 (B) a free annual pass;

15 for the use of any property owned or managed by the department for
16 purposes of this article.

17 (b) If necessary, the department may adopt rules concerning the

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1 appropriate form of identification or documentation required for
2 admission to a location described in subsection (a).

3 SECTION 2. IC 27-1-22-20.1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.46-2024,
4 SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
5 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 20.1. (a) For purposes of this section, an
6 individual is a "foster youth" if:

7 (1) the department of child services; or

8 (2) a designee of the department of child services;

9 certifies or acknowledges that the individual is a foster youth (as
10 defined by ~~IC 31-9-2-47.3~~ **IC 31-9-2-47.3(a)**).

11 (b) The department of child services established by IC 31-25-1-1
12 shall make available to foster youths and to the public a list, provided
13 by the Insurance Institute of Indiana, identifying insurers that may
14 provide automobile insurance coverage outside the plan described in
15 subsection (c) for a minor without a guardian cosigner. The list of
16 insurers shall be reviewed annually.

17 (c) An assigned risk automobile insurance plan established by
18 insurers under section 20 of this chapter must, subject to the rules of
19 the plan, make automobile insurance available to a foster youth who:

20 (1) is at least sixteen (16) years of age and not more than
21 twenty-three (23) years of age; and

22 (2) is receiving services from the department of child services.

23 (d) An applicant who is a foster youth is responsible for paying all
24 costs of a policy of automobile insurance issued under subsection (c).
25 A state or local government agency, foster parent, or entity providing
26 services to an applicant under a contract or at the direction of a state or
27 local government agency shall not be required to pay any costs
28 associated with a policy of automobile insurance issued under
29 subsection (c) and shall not be liable for any damages that result from
30 the foster youth's operation of an automobile owned and insured by the
31 foster youth.

32 SECTION 3. IC 28-1-1-3.9, AS ADDED BY P.L.90-2025,
33 SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
34 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3.9. For purposes of section 7 of this chapter,
35 "foster youth" means an individual who is:

36 (1) at least sixteen (16) years of age; and

37 (2) certified or acknowledged as a foster youth (as defined in
38 ~~IC 31-9-2-47.3~~ **IC 31-9-2-47.3(a)**) by the department of child
39 services or a designee of the department of child services.

40 SECTION 4. IC 31-9-2-47.3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.30-2025,
41 SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
42 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 47.3. (a) "Foster youth", for purposes of



1 IC 31-26-4.5, refers to an individual:
2 (1) who is at least fifteen (15) years of age;
3 (2) who is not more than twenty-three (23) years of age; and
4 (3) who:
5 (A) is adjudicated a child in need of services under
6 IC 31-34-1; or
7 (B) was in foster care when the individual became an adult (as
8 defined by section 7(b) of this chapter).

9 **(b) "Foster youth", for purposes of IC 31-25-2-29, refers to an
10 individual:**

11 **(1) who is at least twelve (12) years of age;**
12 **(2) who is not more than twenty-three (23) years of age;**
13 **(3) who:**
14 **(A) is a child in need of services under IC 31-34-1; or**
15 **(B) is receiving collaborative care (as defined in
16 IC 31-28-5.8-1); and**
17 **(4) who is in an out-of-home placement.**

18 SECTION 5. IC 31-25-2-29 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
19 AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
20 1, 2026]: **Sec. 29. (a) The department shall collaborate with:**

21 **(1) at least one (1) individual who is at least eighteen (18)
22 years of age and who has lived experience as a child within the
23 child welfare system;**
24 **(2) at least one (1) child placing agency; and**
25 **(3) any other person with expertise in older foster youth
26 services;**

27 **to develop and update periodically a statement that describes the
28 rights and responsibilities of a foster youth and is titled "the foster
29 youth bill of rights".**

30 **(b) The statement required in subsection (a):**

31 **(1) must summarize a foster youth's rights and
32 responsibilities; and**
33 **(2) must be:**
34 **(A) distributed annually to a foster youth;**
35 **(B) distributed to a current or prospective foster parent (as
36 defined in IC 31-9-2-47); and**
37 **(C) published on the department's website.**

38 SECTION 6. IC 31-33-18-6, AS AMENDED BY P.L.46-2024,
39 SECTION 17, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
40 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. For the purposes of IC 31-26-4.5, the
41 department may certify or acknowledge that an individual qualifies as
42 a foster youth under ~~IC 31-9-2-47.3~~. **IC 31-9-2-47.3(a).**



COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. President: The Senate Committee on Family and Children Services, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 15, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill DO PASS.

(Reference is to SB 15 as introduced.)

WALKER G, Chairperson

Committee Vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0

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