



January 13, 2026

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## SENATE BILL No. 15

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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.

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

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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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SB 15—LS 6221/DI 148





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

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

(1) the department of child services; or

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



IC 31-26-4.5, refers to an individual:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 6. IC 31-33-18-6, AS AMENDED BY P.L.46-2024, SECTION 17, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 6. For the purposes of IC 31-26-4.5, the department may certify or acknowledge that an individual qualifies as 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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