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SENATE BILL No. 15

Proposed Changes to January 13, 2026 printing by AM001501

DIGEST OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Foster youth bill of rights. Provides that the department of child services must distribute the foster youth bill of rights in a translated form for a foster youth with limited English proficiency.

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
- 10 in ~~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
- 18 appropriate form of identification or documentation required for
- 19 admission to a location described in subsection (a).
- 20 SECTION 2. IC 27-1-22-20.1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.46-2024,

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1 SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
2 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 20.1. (a) For purposes of this section, an
3 individual is a "foster youth" if:

- 4 (1) the department of child services; or
- 5 (2) a designee of the department of child services;

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

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

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

- 17 (1) is at least sixteen (16) years of age and not more than
18 twenty-three (23) years of age; and
- 19 (2) is receiving services from the department of child services.

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

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

- 33 (1) at least sixteen (16) years of age; and
- 34 (2) certified or acknowledged as a foster youth (as defined in
35 ~~IC 31-9-2-47.3~~; IC 31-9-2-47.3(a)) by the department of child
36 services or a designee of the department of child services.

37 SECTION 4. IC 31-9-2-47.3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.30-2025,
38 SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
39 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 47.3. (a) "Foster youth", for purposes of
40 IC 31-26-4.5, refers to an individual:

- 41 (1) who is at least fifteen (15) years of age;
- 42 (2) who is not more than twenty-three (23) years of age; and

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- 1 (3) who:
- 2 (A) is adjudicated a child in need of services under
- 3 IC 31-34-1; or
- 4 (B) was in foster care when the individual became an adult
- 5 (as defined by section 7(b) of this chapter).
- 6 (b) "Foster youth", for purposes of IC 31-25-2-29, refers to an
- 7 individual:
- 8 (1) who is at least twelve (12) years of age;
- 9 (2) who is not more than twenty-three (23) years of age;
- 10 (3) who:
- 11 (A) is a child in need of services under IC 31-34-1; or
- 12 (B) is receiving collaborative care (as defined in
- 13 IC 31-28-5.8-1); and
- 14 (4) who is in an out-of-home placement.

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

- 19 (1) at least one (1) individual who is at least eighteen (18)
- 20 years of age and who has lived experience as a child within
- 21 the child welfare system;
- 22 (2) at least one (1) child placing agency; and
- 23 (3) any other person with expertise in older foster youth
- 24 services;
- 25 to develop and update periodically a statement that describes the
- 26 rights and responsibilities of a foster youth and is titled "the foster
- 27 youth bill of rights".

- 28 (b) The statement required in subsection (a):
- 29 (1) must summarize a foster youth's rights and
- 30 responsibilities; and
- 31 (2) must be:
- 32 (A) distributed annually to a foster youth, including in
- 33 a translated form for a foster youth with limited English
- 34 proficiency;
- 35 (B) distributed to a current or prospective foster parent
- 36 (as 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).

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