



January 6, 2026

SENATE BILL No. 67

DIGEST OF SB 67 (Updated January 5, 2026 12:10 pm - DI 140)

Citations Affected: IC 14-18.

Synopsis: Studies relating to natural lands. Requires the department of natural resources to study and issue a report on the following topics: (1) the impact of natural lands on public health; (2) options for a consistent visitor fee collection system at state fish and wildlife areas; and (3) a plan to mitigate and recover from natural disasters affecting public lands.

Effective: July 1, 2026.

Yoder, Glick

December 8, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Natural Resources.
January 5, 2026, reported favorably — Do Pass.

SB 67—LS 6322/DI 150



January 6, 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. 67

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 14-18-13 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
- 2 AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
- 3 JULY 1, 2026]:
- 4 **Chapter 13. Indiana Public Land Study**
- 5 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "public health indicators"**
- 6 **means:**
- 7 **(1) physical activity;**
- 8 **(2) mental health; and**
- 9 **(3) community well-being.**
- 10 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "public land" refers to Indiana's:**
- 11 **(1) state parks;**
- 12 **(2) state forests;**
- 13 **(3) fish and wildlife areas; and**
- 14 **(4) nature preserves.**
- 15 **Sec. 3. The department shall conduct and prepare a study of the**
- 16 **following topics:**
- 17 **(1) The relationship between:**

SB 67—LS 6322/DI 150



- 1 (A) access to and use of Indiana's public land; and
- 2 (B) key public health indicators.
- 3 (2) Opportunities to leverage Indiana's public lands to
- 4 improve public health outcomes without creating new
- 5 unfunded mandates.
- 6 (3) Options for implementing a consistent and efficient visitor
- 7 fee collection system at state fish and wildlife areas, including:
- 8 (A) potential fee structures, exemptions, and discounts;
- 9 (B) mechanisms for electronic and onsite fee collection that
- 10 minimize administrative burden;
- 11 (C) the feasibility of ensuring that collected fees are
- 12 dedicated to:
- 13 (i) operation;
- 14 (ii) maintenance;
- 15 (iii) access;
- 16 (iv) habitat; and
- 17 (v) safety improvements at fish and wildlife areas; and
- 18 (D) consideration of affordability and continued access for
- 19 Indiana:
- 20 (i) residents;
- 21 (ii) hunters;
- 22 (iii) anglers; and
- 23 (iv) other users.
- 24 (4) Development of a framework for mitigating the impacts of
- 25 natural disasters on public lands by:
- 26 (A) identifying key risks from:
- 27 (i) flooding;
- 28 (ii) severe storms;
- 29 (iii) wildfire risk;
- 30 (iv) invasive species outbreaks; and
- 31 (v) other hazards;
- 32 (B) creating:
- 33 (i) emergency plans for public lands;
- 34 (ii) resiliently designed properties; and
- 35 (iii) plans that prioritize protecting critical habitats and
- 36 infrastructure;
- 37 (C) coordinating with:
- 38 (i) local governments;
- 39 (ii) emergency management agencies; and
- 40 (iii) federal partners; and
- 41 (D) prioritizing recovery efforts using:
- 42 (i) existing resources;



- (ii) federal assistance;
- (iii) insurance; and
- (iv) additional sources other than the state general fund.

Sec. 4. (a) In carrying out the study under section 3 of this chapter, the department shall, to the greatest extent practicable, use existing:

- (1) data;
- (2) analyses;
- (3) partnerships; and
- (4) staff capacity.

(b) The department may consult with:

- (1) the Indiana department of health;
- (2) the Indiana University School of Public Health;
- (3) Purdue University;
- (4) other institutions of higher education;
- (5) health systems; or
- (6) other relevant stakeholders;

to identify available data, research, and best practices.

Sec. 5. (a) The department shall issue a report of its findings and recommendations under section 3 of this chapter to the:

- (1) governor;
- (2) interim study committee on agriculture and natural resources; and
- (3) legislative council;

in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6 not later than November 1, 2027.

(b) The report required under subsection (a) may be incorporated into or transmitted concurrently with any other statutorily required report of the department to minimize administrative burden.

Sec. 6. (a) The department shall carry out this chapter using existing appropriations, federal funds, grants, and partnerships, without requiring additional state general fund appropriations.

(b) This chapter does not:

- (1) create a private right of action; or
- (2) authorize new fees or taxes.

Recommendations regarding visitor fees at state fish and wildlife areas shall be submitted to the general assembly for consideration before implementation.

Sec. 7. This chapter expires July 1, 2028.



COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. President: The Senate Committee on Natural Resources, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 67, 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 67 as introduced.)

GLICK, Chairperson

Committee Vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0

SB 67—LS 6322/DI 150

