

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS
FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

LS 6345

BILL NUMBER: SB 91

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 17, 2026

BILL AMENDED: Feb 17, 2026

SUBJECT: Syringe Exchange Program.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Crider

FIRST SPONSOR: Rep. Clere

BILL STATUS: 2nd Reading - 2nd House

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 X FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill prohibits a qualified entity that operates a Syringe Exchange Program (Program) from establishing or operating a fixed site for the distribution or exchange of a syringe or needle within 1,000 feet of specified facilities and creates an exception. It allows the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) to deny, suspend, or revoke a qualified entity's annual registration for a violation and amends the duties of a qualified entity that operates a Program. The bill establishes requirements for Program participation and prohibits a qualified entity that operates a Program from providing chemical reagents or precursors.

The bill requires the State Health Commissioner to investigate any complaint regarding a qualified entity's noncompliance with the qualified entity's duties concerning the operation of a Program. The bill permits the State Health Commissioner to suspend or terminate the approval of a qualified entity for noncompliance. This bill also extends the expiration of the Syringe Exchange Program to July 1, 2031.

Effective Date: Upon passage.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) The bill's requirement that IDOH investigate complaints of noncompliance by a qualified provider, and the extension of the Syringe Exchange Program to July 1, 2031, will increase workload and associated costs for the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) beyond the current expiration date of July 1, 2026. A federal grant covers all program-related costs at the IDOH.

Additional information: As of January 2025, eight Indiana counties operated a Syringe Exchange Program. Each program must annually register and file quarterly reports with IDOH. IDOH prepares and submits an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly concerning the Syringe Exchange Program. IDOH also provides technical assistance and provides grants to locally approved programs from a federal grant. *[Federal and state funds may not be used in the purchase of syringes, but may be used for staffing and harm reduction components of the programs.]*

Syringe exchange programs are public health programs open to anyone in need of new injecting equipment including those with diabetes and other conditions requiring syringes. Such programs may operate only in

a county or municipality under certain circumstances.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: (Revised) Participating entities may experience an increase in workload and supply costs as a result of the new Program requirements as they will be required to:

- accept syringes for proper disposal;
- provide safe syringe disposal containers as requested;
- maintain data concerning HIV and hepatitis C testing and treatment referrals;
- maintain data concerning referrals to drug treatment programs that offer medication assisted treatment; and
- verify identification of participants.

The bill may result in a decrease in participation in Syringe Exchange Programs as it specifies that a participating individual must present valid identification.

The bill also extends the Syringe Exchange Program beyond the current expiration date of July 1, 2031. Local health departments use local, federal, and philanthropic funding for Syringe Exchange Program expenses. Indiana code prohibits the use of state funds for the purchase of syringes or needles.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Indiana Department of Health.

Local Agencies Affected: Local health departments.

Information Sources: Rachel Swartwood, Indiana Department of Health;
Samantha Spergel, Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority;
<https://www.in.gov/health/hiv-std-viral-hepatitis/harm-reduction-and-syringe-service-programs>;
<https://www.in.gov/health/hiv-std-viral-hepatitis/files/IDOH-HRP-SSP-Infographic-January-2025.pdf>;
<https://www.in.gov/ihcda/indiana-balance-of-state-continuum-of-care>.

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