



January 21, 2026

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## SENATE BILL No. 119

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DIGEST OF SB 119 (Updated January 20, 2026 12:11 pm - DI 106)

**Citations Affected:** IC 35-42.

**Synopsis:** Grooming. Adds a facility or event that provides entertainment or programming primarily directed toward a child less than 18 years of age to the list of facilities at which a sexually violent predator or an offender against children may not work or volunteer. Adds entering a facility or location holding an event that provides entertainment or programming primarily directed toward a child less than 18 years of age by a serious sex offender to the crime of unlawful entry by a serious sex offender. Renames the offense of "inappropriate communication with a child" to "sexual grooming", and provides (in addition to the current elements of the offense) that a person commits the offense if the person engages in a pattern of repeated or continuous contact with an individual whom the person believes to be a child less than 14 years of age, with the intent to make the individual less resistant to future sexual conduct.

**Effective:** July 1, 2026.

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December 9, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Corrections and Criminal Law.  
January 20, 2026, amended, reported favorably — Do Pass.

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SB 119—LS 6465/DI 106





January 21, 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. 119

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning criminal law and procedure.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 35-42-4-10, AS AMENDED BY P.L.98-2025,  
2 SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10. (a) As used in this section, "offender against  
4 children" means a person who is an offender against children under  
5 section 11 of this chapter.  
6 (b) As used in this section, "sexually violent predator" means a  
7 person who is a sexually violent predator under IC 35-38-1-7.5.  
8 (c) A sexually violent predator or an offender against children who  
9 knowingly or intentionally works for compensation or as a volunteer:  
10 (1) on school property;  
11 (2) at a youth program center;  
12 (3) at a public park;  
13 (4) as a child care provider (as defined by IC 31-33-26-1);  
14 (5) for a child care provider (as defined by IC 31-33-26-1);  
15 (6) as a provider of:  
16 (A) respite care services and other support services for primary  
17 or family caregivers; or

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(B) adult day care services; ~~or~~  
 (7) in any setting where the sexually violent predator or offender  
 against children:

(A) has more than incidental and occasional contact with a  
 child who is not accompanied by the child's parent, guardian,  
 or custodian;

(B) has supervisory or disciplinary power over a child; or

(C) is expected to touch a child on a more than incidental and  
 occasional basis; **or**

**(8) at a facility or event that provides entertainment or  
 programming primarily directed toward a child less than  
 eighteen (18) years of age;**

commits unlawful employment by a sexual predator, a Level 6 felony.  
 However, the offense is a Level 5 felony if the person has a prior  
 unrelated conviction under this section or based on the person's failure  
 to comply with any requirement imposed on an offender under  
 IC 11-8-8.

SECTION 2. IC 35-42-4-13, AS AMENDED BY P.L.168-2014,  
 SECTION 74, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 13. (a) This section does not apply to the  
 following:

(1) A parent, guardian, or custodian of a child.

(2) A person who acts with the permission of a child's parent,  
 guardian, or custodian.

(3) A person to whom a child makes a report of abuse or neglect.

(4) A person to whom a child reports medical symptoms that  
 relate to or may relate to sexual activity.

(b) As used in this section, "sexual activity" means sexual  
 intercourse, other sexual conduct (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-221.5),  
 or the fondling or touching of the buttocks, genitals, or female breasts.

(c) A person at least eighteen (18) years of age who **knowingly or  
 intentionally:**

**(1) knowingly or intentionally** communicates with an individual  
 whom the person believes to be a child less than fourteen (14)  
 years of age concerning sexual activity with the intent to gratify  
 the sexual desires of the person or the individual; **or**

**(2) engages in a pattern of repeated or continuous contact  
 with an individual whom the person believes to be a child less  
 than fourteen (14) years of age with the intent to make the  
 individual less resistant to future sexual conduct;**

commits ~~inappropriate communication with a child~~ **sexual grooming**,  
 a Class B misdemeanor. However, the offense is:



- (1) a Class A misdemeanor if the person commits the offense by using a computer network (as defined in IC 35-43-2-3(a); and  
 (2) a Level 6 felony if the person has a prior unrelated conviction for a sex offense (as defined in IC 11-8-8-5.2).

SECTION 3. IC 35-42-4-14, AS AMENDED BY P.L.218-2025, SECTION 18, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 14. (a) As used in this section, "serious sex offender" means a person required to register as a sex offender under IC 11-8-8 who is:

- (1) found to be a sexually violent predator under IC 35-38-1-7.5;  
 or

- (2) convicted of one (1) or more of the following offenses:

- (A) Child molesting (IC 35-42-4-3).  
 (B) Child exploitation (IC 35-42-4-4(b) or IC 35-42-4-4(c)).  
 (C) Possession of child sex abuse material (IC 35-42-4-4(d) or IC 35-42-4-4(e)).  
 (D) Vicarious sexual gratification (IC 35-42-4-5(a) and IC 35-42-4-5(b)).  
 (E) Performing sexual conduct in the presence of a minor (IC 35-42-4-5(c)).  
 (F) Child solicitation (IC 35-42-4-6).  
 (G) Child seduction (IC 35-42-4-7).  
 (H) Sexual misconduct with a minor (IC 35-42-4-9).

- (b) A serious sex offender who knowingly or intentionally enters:

- (1) school property; **or**

- (2) **a:**

- (A) **facility; or**

- (B) **location holding an event;**

**that provides entertainment or programming primarily directed toward a child less than eighteen (18) years of age;**  
 commits unlawful entry by a serious sex offender, a Level 6 felony.

- (c) It is a defense to a prosecution under subsection (b) that:

- (1) a religious institution or house of worship is located on the school property; and

- (2) the person:

- (A) enters the school property or other entity described in IC 35-31.5-2-285(1)(A) through IC 35-31.5-2-285(1)(D) when classes, extracurricular activities, or any other school activities are not being held:

- (i) for the sole purpose of attending worship services or receiving religious instruction; and  
 (ii) not earlier than thirty (30) minutes before the beginning



1           of the worship services or religious instruction; and  
2           (B) leaves the school property not later than thirty (30)  
3           minutes after the conclusion of the worship services or  
4           religious instruction.



## COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. President: The Senate Committee on Corrections and Criminal Law, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 119, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill be AMENDED as follows:

Page 2, line 31, delete "who:" and insert "who **knowingly or intentionally**:".

Page 2, line 32, strike "knowingly or intentionally".

Page 2, line 39, delete "unlawful".

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to SB 119 as introduced.)

FREEMAN, Chairperson

Committee Vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0.

