



February 19, 2026

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL No. 119

DIGEST OF SB 119 (Updated February 18, 2026 3:28 pm - DI 106)

Citations Affected: IC 35-31.5; IC 35-42; IC 35-43.

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 condition the individual to be less resistant to future sexual conduct or sexual activity. Specifies that provides that "computer network" includes cellular telephones.

Effective: July 1, 2026.

**Dernulc, Niemeyer, Brown L, Clark,
Pol Jr., Young M, Randolph Lonnie M**
(HOUSE SPONSORS — OLTHOFF, BARTLETT, CASH)

December 9, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Corrections and Criminal Law.

January 20, 2026, amended, reported favorably — Do Pass.

January 26, 2026, read second time, amended, ordered engrossed.

January 27, 2026, engrossed. Read third time, passed. Yeas 46, nays 0.

HOUSE ACTION

January 29, 2026, read first time and referred to Committee on Courts and Criminal Code.

February 19, 2026, amended, reported — Do Pass.

ES 119—LS 6465/DI 106



February 19, 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.

ENGROSSED 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 35-31.5-2-127.7 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
2 CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
3 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 127.7. "Facility or event that**
4 **provides entertainment or programming primarily directed**
5 **toward a child less than eighteen (18) years of age", or "facility or**
6 **location holding an event that provides entertainment or**
7 **programming primarily directed toward a child less than eighteen**
8 **(18) years of age", means a facility, location, or event for which**
9 **admission, participation, or attendance is restricted by policy or**
10 **practice to children less than eighteen (18) years of age, or to**
11 **children less than eighteen (18) years of age accompanied by a**
12 **parent, guardian, or custodian.**

13 SECTION 2. IC 35-42-4-10, AS AMENDED BY P.L.98-2025,
14 SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
15 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10. (a) As used in this section, "offender against
16 children" means a person who is an offender against children under
17 section 11 of this chapter.

ES 119—LS 6465/DI 106



1 (b) As used in this section, "sexually violent predator" means a
2 person who is a sexually violent predator under IC 35-38-1-7.5.

3 (c) A sexually violent predator or an offender against children who
4 knowingly or intentionally works for compensation or as a volunteer:

5 (1) on school property;

6 (2) at a youth program center;

7 (3) at a public park;

8 (4) as a child care provider (as defined by IC 31-33-26-1);

9 (5) for a child care provider (as defined by IC 31-33-26-1);

10 (6) as a provider of:

11 (A) respite care services and other support services for primary
12 or family caregivers; or

13 (B) adult day care services; ~~or~~

14 (7) in any setting where the sexually violent predator or offender
15 against children:

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

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

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

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

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

30 SECTION 3. IC 35-42-4-13, AS AMENDED BY P.L.168-2014,
31 SECTION 74, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
32 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 13. (a) This section does not apply to the
33 following:

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

7 (2) **engages in a pattern of repeated or continuous contact**
 8 **with an individual the person believes to be less than fourteen**
 9 **(14) years of age, with the intent to condition the individual to**
 10 **be less resistant to future sexual conduct or sexual activity;**

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

13 (1) a Class A misdemeanor if the person commits the offense by
 14 using a computer network (as defined in IC 35-43-2-3(a); and

15 (2) a Level 6 felony if the person has a prior unrelated conviction
 16 for a sex offense (as defined in IC 11-8-8-5.2).

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

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

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

25 (A) Child molesting (IC 35-42-4-3).

26 (B) Child exploitation (IC 35-42-4-4(b) or IC 35-42-4-4(c)).

27 (C) Possession of child sex abuse material (IC 35-42-4-4(d) or
 28 IC 35-42-4-4(e)).

29 (D) Vicarious sexual gratification (IC 35-42-4-5(a) and
 30 IC 35-42-4-5(b)).

31 (E) Performing sexual conduct in the presence of a minor
 32 (IC 35-42-4-5(c)).

33 (F) Child solicitation (IC 35-42-4-6).

34 (G) Child seduction (IC 35-42-4-7).

35 (H) Sexual misconduct with a minor (IC 35-42-4-9).

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

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

38 (2) **a:**

39 (A) **facility; or**

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

41 **that provides entertainment or programming primarily**
 42 **directed toward a child less than eighteen (18) years of age;**



1 commits unlawful entry by a serious sex offender, a Level 6 felony.

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

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

5 (2) the person:

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

10 (i) for the sole purpose of attending worship services or
11 receiving religious instruction; and

12 (ii) not earlier than thirty (30) minutes before the beginning
13 of the worship services or religious instruction; and

14 (B) leaves the school property not later than thirty (30)
15 minutes after the conclusion of the worship services or
16 religious instruction.

17 SECTION 5. IC 35-43-2-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.32-2019,
18 SECTION 28, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
19 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) As used in this section:

20 "Access" means to:

21 (1) approach;

22 (2) instruct;

23 (3) communicate with;

24 (4) store data in;

25 (5) retrieve data from; or

26 (6) make use of resources of;

27 a computer, computer system, or computer network.

28 "Computer network" means the interconnection of communication
29 lines or wireless telecommunications with a computer or wireless
30 telecommunication device through:

31 (1) remote terminals;

32 (2) a complex consisting of two (2) or more interconnected
33 computers; or

34 (3) a worldwide collection of interconnected networks operating
35 as the Internet.

36 **The term includes a cellular telephone or other wireless or cellular**
37 **communications device.**

38 "Computer system" means a set of related computer equipment,
39 software, or hardware.

40 "Hoarding program" means a computer program designed to bypass
41 or neutralize a security measure, access control system, or similar
42 system used by the owner of a computer network or computer system



- 1 to limit the amount of merchandise that one (1) person may purchase
2 by means of a computer network.
- 3 (b) A person who knowingly or intentionally accesses:
4 (1) a computer system;
5 (2) a computer network; or
6 (3) any part of a computer system or computer network;
7 without the consent of the owner of the computer system or computer
8 network, or the consent of the owner's licensee, commits computer
9 trespass, a Class A misdemeanor.
- 10 (c) A person who knowingly or intentionally uses a hoarding
11 program to purchase merchandise by means of a computer network
12 commits computer merchandise hoarding, a Class C infraction. A
13 person commits a separate infraction for each item of merchandise
14 purchased. However, the violation is a Class A misdemeanor if the
15 person has a prior unrelated adjudication or conviction for a violation
16 of this section within the previous five (5) years. It is a defense to a
17 prosecution under this subsection that the person used the hoarding
18 program with the permission of the person selling the merchandise.
- 19 (d) A person who knowingly or intentionally sells, purchases, or
20 distributes a hoarding program commits unlawful distribution of a
21 hoarding program, a Class C infraction. A person commits a separate
22 infraction for each sale, purchase, or distribution of a hoarding
23 program. However, the violation is a Class C misdemeanor if the
24 person has a prior unrelated adjudication or conviction for a violation
25 of this section within the previous five (5) years. It is a defense to a
26 prosecution under this subsection that the hoarding program was sold,
27 purchased, or distributed for legitimate scientific or educational
28 purposes.



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.

 SENATE MOTION

Mr. President: I move that Senate Bill 119 be amended to read as follows:

Page 1, between the enacting clause and line 1, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"SECTION 1. IC 35-31.5-2-127.7 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS** [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 127.7. "Facility or event that provides entertainment or programming primarily directed toward a child less than eighteen (18) years of age", or "facility or location holding an event that provides entertainment or programming primarily directed toward a child less than eighteen (18) years of age", means a facility, location, or event for which admission, participation, or attendance is restricted by policy or practice to children less than eighteen (18) years of age, or to children less than eighteen (18) years of age accompanied by a parent, guardian, or custodian."**

Renumber all SECTIONS consecutively.

(Reference is to SB 119 as printed January 21, 2026.)

FREEMAN

ES 119—LS 6465/DI 106



COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Courts and Criminal Code, to which was referred Senate Bill 119, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill be amended as follows:

Page 3, delete lines 7 through 10, begin a new line block indented and insert:

"(2) engages in a pattern of repeated or continuous contact with an individual the person believes to be less than fourteen (14) years of age, with the intent to condition the individual to be less resistant to future sexual conduct or sexual activity;".

Page 4, after line 16, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"SECTION 4. IC 35-43-2-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.32-2019, SECTION 28, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) As used in this section:

"Access" means to:

- (1) approach;
- (2) instruct;
- (3) communicate with;
- (4) store data in;
- (5) retrieve data from; or
- (6) make use of resources of;

a computer, computer system, or computer network.

"Computer network" means the interconnection of communication lines or wireless telecommunications with a computer or wireless telecommunication device through:

- (1) remote terminals;
- (2) a complex consisting of two (2) or more interconnected computers; or
- (3) a worldwide collection of interconnected networks operating as the Internet.

The term includes a cellular telephone or other wireless or cellular communications device.

"Computer system" means a set of related computer equipment, software, or hardware.

"Hoarding program" means a computer program designed to bypass or neutralize a security measure, access control system, or similar system used by the owner of a computer network or computer system to limit the amount of merchandise that one (1) person may purchase by means of a computer network.

(b) A person who knowingly or intentionally accesses:



- (1) a computer system;
- (2) a computer network; or
- (3) any part of a computer system or computer network;

without the consent of the owner of the computer system or computer network, or the consent of the owner's licensee, commits computer trespass, a Class A misdemeanor.

(c) A person who knowingly or intentionally uses a hoarding program to purchase merchandise by means of a computer network commits computer merchandise hoarding, a Class C infraction. A person commits a separate infraction for each item of merchandise purchased. However, the violation is a Class A misdemeanor if the person has a prior unrelated adjudication or conviction for a violation of this section within the previous five (5) years. It is a defense to a prosecution under this subsection that the person used the hoarding program with the permission of the person selling the merchandise.

(d) A person who knowingly or intentionally sells, purchases, or distributes a hoarding program commits unlawful distribution of a hoarding program, a Class C infraction. A person commits a separate infraction for each sale, purchase, or distribution of a hoarding program. However, the violation is a Class C misdemeanor if the person has a prior unrelated adjudication or conviction for a violation of this section within the previous five (5) years. It is a defense to a prosecution under this subsection that the hoarding program was sold, purchased, or distributed for legitimate scientific or educational purposes."

Renumber all SECTIONS consecutively.

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to SB 119 as reprinted January 27, 2026.)

MCNAMARA

Committee Vote: yeas 13, nays 0.

