

# SENATE BILL No. 156

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## DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 35-38-1-7.1.

**Synopsis:** Dating app aggravator. Makes it an aggravating circumstance for purposes of sentencing that the person: (1) committed a sex offense; and (2) used an online platform designed for dating to meet the victim.

**Effective:** July 1, 2026.

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## Bohacek

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January 5, 2026, read first time and referred to Committee on Corrections and Criminal Law.

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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. 156

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 35-38-1-7.1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.218-2025,  
2       SECTION 16, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3       JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7.1. (a) In determining what sentence to impose  
4       for a crime, the court may consider the following aggravating  
5       circumstances:

6               (1) The harm, injury, loss, or damage suffered by the victim of an  
7               offense was:

8                       (A) significant; and

9                       (B) greater than the elements necessary to prove the  
10              commission of the offense.

11              (2) The person has a history of criminal or delinquent behavior.

12              (3) The victim of the offense was less than twelve (12) years of  
13              age or at least sixty-five (65) years of age at the time the person  
14              committed the offense.

15              (4) The person:

16                       (A) committed a crime of violence (IC 35-50-1-2); and

17                       (B) knowingly committed the offense in the presence or within



- 1 hearing of an individual who:
- 2 (i) was less than eighteen (18) years of age at the time the
- 3 person committed the offense; and
- 4 (ii) is not the victim of the offense.
- 5 (5) The person violated a protective order issued against the
- 6 person under IC 34-26-5 (or IC 31-1-11.5, IC 34-26-2, or
- 7 IC 34-4-5.1 before their repeal), a workplace violence restraining
- 8 order issued against the person under IC 34-26-6, or a no contact
- 9 order issued against the person.
- 10 (6) The person has recently violated the conditions of any
- 11 probation, parole, pardon, community corrections placement, or
- 12 pretrial release granted to the person.
- 13 (7) The victim of the offense was:
- 14 (A) a person with a disability (as defined in IC 27-7-6-12), and
- 15 the defendant knew or should have known that the victim was
- 16 a person with a disability; or
- 17 (B) mentally or physically infirm.
- 18 (8) The person was in a position having care, custody, or control
- 19 of the victim of the offense.
- 20 (9) The injury to or death of the victim of the offense was the
- 21 result of shaken baby syndrome (as defined in IC 16-41-40-2) or
- 22 abusive head trauma.
- 23 (10) The person threatened to harm the victim of the offense or a
- 24 witness if the victim or witness told anyone about the offense.
- 25 (11) The person:
- 26 (A) committed trafficking with an inmate under
- 27 IC 35-44.1-3-5; and
- 28 (B) is an employee of the penal facility.
- 29 (12) The person committed the offense with bias due to the
- 30 victim's or the group's real or perceived characteristic, trait, belief,
- 31 practice, association, or other attribute the court chooses to
- 32 consider, including but not limited to an attribute described in
- 33 IC 10-13-3-1.
- 34 (13) The person is or has been an alien (as defined by 8 U.S.C.
- 35 1101(a)) unlawfully present in the United States. A determination
- 36 by the United States Department of Homeland Security that an
- 37 alien has come to, entered, or remained in the United States in
- 38 violation of law is evidence that the alien is or has been
- 39 unlawfully present in the United States.
- 40 (14) The offense involved dealing in a controlled substance under
- 41 IC 35-48-4 and the person distributed the controlled substance to
- 42 at least three (3) different individuals in a one hundred eighty



(180) day period.

**(15) The person:**

- (1) committed a sex offense (as defined in IC 11-8-8-5.2);**
- and**
- (2) used an online platform designed for dating to meet the victim.**

(b) The court may consider the following factors as mitigating circumstances or as favoring suspending the sentence and imposing probation:

- (1) The crime neither caused nor threatened serious harm to persons or property, or the person did not contemplate that it would do so.
- (2) The crime was the result of circumstances unlikely to recur.
- (3) The victim of the crime induced or facilitated the offense.
- (4) There are substantial grounds tending to excuse or justify the crime, though failing to establish a defense.
- (5) The person acted under strong provocation.
- (6) The person has no history of delinquency or criminal activity, or the person has led a law-abiding life for a substantial period before commission of the crime.
- (7) The person is likely to respond affirmatively to probation or short term imprisonment.
- (8) The character and attitudes of the person indicate that the person is unlikely to commit another crime.
- (9) The person has made or will make restitution to the victim of the crime for the injury, damage, or loss sustained.
- (10) Imprisonment of the person will result in undue hardship to the person or the dependents of the person.
- (11) The person was convicted of a crime involving the use of force against a person who had repeatedly inflicted physical or sexual abuse upon the convicted person and evidence shows that the convicted person suffered from the effects of battery as a result of the past course of conduct of the individual who is the victim of the crime for which the person was convicted.
- (12) The person was convicted of a crime relating to a controlled substance and the person's arrest or prosecution was facilitated in part because the person:
  - (A) requested emergency medical assistance; or
  - (B) acted in concert with another person who requested emergency medical assistance;for an individual who reasonably appeared to be in need of medical assistance due to the use of alcohol or a controlled



1 substance.

2 (13) The person has posttraumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain  
3 injury, or a postconcussive brain injury.

4 (14) The person is a person described in IC 31-30-1-4(d) who  
5 committed the offense while the person was a child but is now at  
6 least twenty-one (21) years of age.

7 (15) The offense involved a controlled substance under  
8 IC 35-48-4 and the person:

9 (A) sought treatment:

10 (i) in the three hundred sixty-five (365) day period  
11 preceding the date of the commission of the offense; or

12 (ii) on or after the date on which the person committed the  
13 offense, but before sentencing; and

14 (B) successfully completed treatment:

15 (i) in the three hundred sixty-five (365) day period  
16 preceding the date of the commission of the offense; or

17 (ii) on or after the date on which the person committed the  
18 offense, but before sentencing.

19 (c) The criteria listed in subsections (a) and (b) do not limit the  
20 matters that the court may consider in determining the sentence.

21 (d) A court may impose any sentence that is:

22 (1) authorized by statute; and

23 (2) permissible under the Constitution of the State of Indiana;  
24 regardless of the presence or absence of aggravating circumstances or  
25 mitigating circumstances.

26 (e) If a court suspends a sentence and orders probation for a person  
27 described in subsection (b)(13), the court may require the person to  
28 receive treatment for the person's injuries.

