

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

LS 6561
BILL NUMBER: SB 156

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 15, 2025
BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Dating App Aggravator.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Bohacek
FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: The bill 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 Date: July 1, 2026.

Explanation of State Expenditures: Expenditures could increase if people who have been convicted of a sex offense receive longer sentences in the Department of Correction (DOC). The impact is indeterminate and will depend on the number of people convicted of a sex offense who used an online dating platform to meet the victim, and the extent to which judicial officers take this aggravating circumstance into consideration for sentencing.

A court is required to state the reasons for selecting a sentence being imposed, unless the court imposes the advisory sentence. The following are the advisory and maximum sentence for all felony levels. About 60% of cases with a sex offense, as the highest convicted charge, are committed to the DOC (about 790 of the 1,300 annual convictions). The incremental cost to house an adult offender is \$4,825 annually (or \$13.22 daily) per prisoner for medical care, food, and clothing. The incremental cost for juvenile facilities was \$8,986 annually (or \$24.62 daily).

Sentences by Felony Level		
Felony	Advisory	Maximum
Level 6	1 year	2.5 years
Level 5	3 years	6 years
Level 4	6 years	12 years
Level 3	9 years	16 years
Level 2	17.5 years	30 years
Level 1	30 years	40 years

Additional Information: A sex offense is a defined list that includes offenses, such as rape; sexual battery;

sexual misconduct with a minor (as a Level 1 - Level 5 felony); kidnapping or criminal confinement (not by a parent or guardian); incest; possession of child sex abuse material; promotion of sexual trafficking; sexual misconduct by a service provider with a detained or supervised child; and molesting, exploitation, sexual trafficking, solicitation, or seduction of a child.

Many of these are also offenses listed under the definition of “crime of violence,” which already preclude them from statutory caps on the length of consecutive terms of sentences a person may serve when more than one offense was committed in a single episode. Additionally, a couple of these offenses make a person a credit restricted felon, which reduces the amount of credit time available.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: If sentences are lengthened due to the new aggravating circumstance, post-trial time in jail for Level 6 felonies could increase. The length of time served for those in community corrections programs (for any felony level) could also increase. Even the portions of a sentence that are suspended are typically done so under probation, which could lengthen the time for probation supervision. The Gateway reports show that in CY 2023, housing offenders in 33 Indiana county jails cost an average of \$56 to \$79 per day, while the average cost for community corrections supervision is \$10.96 per day and for probation supervision is \$3.39 per day.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Correction; Department of Child Services.

Local Agencies Affected: Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies, county prosecuting attorneys.

Information Sources: Department of Correction; Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, Indiana Sheriffs’ Association, Indiana Supreme Court, Indiana Trial Court Fee Manual; Indiana Gateway for Government Units, 2023 Annual Financial Reports, <https://gateway.ifionline.org/public/download.aspx>; Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2023 Annual Survey of Jails Data Series, <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/NACJD/series/7>.

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