



February 12, 2026

ENGROSSED
SENATE BILL No. 160

DIGEST OF SB 160 (Updated February 11, 2026 3:07 pm - DI 106)

Citations Affected: IC 35-31.5; IC 35-38; IC 35-45.

Synopsis: Public safety. Makes wearing a mask during the commission of a criminal offense a sentencing aggravator. Makes it malicious littering, a Class A misdemeanor, for a person to place refuse on the property of another person with the intent to cause the owner or occupant of the property to reasonably fear for their physical safety.

Effective: July 1, 2026.

Deery, Clark, Baldwin

(HOUSE SPONSOR — LOPEZ)

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

January 13, 2026, amended, reported favorably — Do Pass.

January 20, 2026, read second time, amended, ordered engrossed.

January 21, 2026, engrossed.

January 22, 2026, read third time, passed. Yeas 45, nays 0.

HOUSE ACTION

January 28, 2026, read first time and referred to Committee on Courts and Criminal Code.

February 12, 2026, amended, reported — Do Pass.

ES 160—LS 6439/DI 106



February 12, 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. 160

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 35-31.5-2-195.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
2 CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
3 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 195.5. "Mask", for purposes of**
4 **IC 35-38-1-7.1, means a covering or device worn over the face for**
5 **the purpose of concealing or disguising the wearer's identity.**
6 SECTION 2. IC 35-31.5-2-273.2, AS ADDED BY P.L.13-2013,
7 SECTION 129, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
8 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 273.2. "Refuse", for purposes of
9 IC 35-45-3-2 **and IC 35-45-3-4**, has the meaning set forth in
10 IC 35-45-3-2(b).
11 SECTION 3. IC 35-38-1-7.1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.218-2025,
12 SECTION 16, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
13 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7.1. (a) In determining what sentence to impose
14 for a crime, the court may consider the following aggravating
15 circumstances:
16 (1) The harm, injury, loss, or damage suffered by the victim of an
17 offense was:

ES 160—LS 6439/DI 106



- 1 (A) significant; and
2 (B) greater than the elements necessary to prove the
3 commission of the offense.
4 (2) The person has a history of criminal or delinquent behavior.
5 (3) The victim of the offense was less than twelve (12) years of
6 age or at least sixty-five (65) years of age at the time the person
7 committed the offense.
8 (4) The person:
9 (A) committed a crime of violence (IC 35-50-1-2); and
10 (B) knowingly committed the offense in the presence or within
11 hearing of an individual who:
12 (i) was less than eighteen (18) years of age at the time the
13 person committed the offense; and
14 (ii) is not the victim of the offense.
15 (5) The person violated a protective order issued against the
16 person under IC 34-26-5 (or IC 31-1-11.5, IC 34-26-2, or
17 IC 34-4-5.1 before their repeal), a workplace violence restraining
18 order issued against the person under IC 34-26-6, or a no contact
19 order issued against the person.
20 (6) The person has recently violated the conditions of any
21 probation, parole, pardon, community corrections placement, or
22 pretrial release granted to the person.
23 (7) The victim of the offense was:
24 (A) a person with a disability (as defined in IC 27-7-6-12), and
25 the defendant knew or should have known that the victim was
26 a person with a disability; or
27 (B) mentally or physically infirm.
28 (8) The person was in a position having care, custody, or control
29 of the victim of the offense.
30 (9) The injury to or death of the victim of the offense was the
31 result of shaken baby syndrome (as defined in IC 16-41-40-2) or
32 abusive head trauma.
33 (10) The person threatened to harm the victim of the offense or a
34 witness if the victim or witness told anyone about the offense.
35 (11) The person:
36 (A) committed trafficking with an inmate under
37 IC 35-44.1-3-5; and
38 (B) is an employee of the penal facility.
39 (12) The person committed the offense with bias due to the
40 victim's or the group's real or perceived characteristic, trait, belief,
41 practice, association, or other attribute the court chooses to
42 consider, including but not limited to an attribute described in



- 1 IC 10-13-3-1.
2 (13) The person is or has been an alien (as defined by 8 U.S.C.
3 1101(a)) unlawfully present in the United States. A determination
4 by the United States Department of Homeland Security that an
5 alien has come to, entered, or remained in the United States in
6 violation of law is evidence that the alien is or has been
7 unlawfully present in the United States.
8 (14) The offense involved dealing in a controlled substance under
9 IC 35-48-4 and the person distributed the controlled substance to
10 at least three (3) different individuals in a one hundred eighty
11 (180) day period.
12 **(15) The person committed the offense while wearing a mask.**
13 (b) The court may consider the following factors as mitigating
14 circumstances or as favoring suspending the sentence and imposing
15 probation:
16 (1) The crime neither caused nor threatened serious harm to
17 persons or property, or the person did not contemplate that it
18 would do so.
19 (2) The crime was the result of circumstances unlikely to recur.
20 (3) The victim of the crime induced or facilitated the offense.
21 (4) There are substantial grounds tending to excuse or justify the
22 crime, though failing to establish a defense.
23 (5) The person acted under strong provocation.
24 (6) The person has no history of delinquency or criminal activity,
25 or the person has led a law-abiding life for a substantial period
26 before commission of the crime.
27 (7) The person is likely to respond affirmatively to probation or
28 short term imprisonment.
29 (8) The character and attitudes of the person indicate that the
30 person is unlikely to commit another crime.
31 (9) The person has made or will make restitution to the victim of
32 the crime for the injury, damage, or loss sustained.
33 (10) Imprisonment of the person will result in undue hardship to
34 the person or the dependents of the person.
35 (11) The person was convicted of a crime involving the use of
36 force against a person who had repeatedly inflicted physical or
37 sexual abuse upon the convicted person and evidence shows that
38 the convicted person suffered from the effects of battery as a
39 result of the past course of conduct of the individual who is the
40 victim of the crime for which the person was convicted.
41 (12) The person was convicted of a crime relating to a controlled
42 substance and the person's arrest or prosecution was facilitated in



1 part because the person:

2 (A) requested emergency medical assistance; or

3 (B) acted in concert with another person who requested
4 emergency medical assistance;

5 for an individual who reasonably appeared to be in need of
6 medical assistance due to the use of alcohol or a controlled
7 substance.

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

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

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

15 (A) sought treatment:

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

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

20 (B) successfully completed treatment:

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

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

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

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

28 (1) authorized by statute; and

29 (2) permissible under the Constitution of the State of Indiana;
30 regardless of the presence or absence of aggravating circumstances or
31 mitigating circumstances.

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

35 SECTION 4. IC 35-45-3-4 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
36 AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
37 1, 2026]: **Sec. 4. A person who places or leaves refuse on the
38 property of another person, with the intent to cause:**

39 **(1) the owner or occupant of the property;**

40 **(2) an invitee of the owner or occupant of the property; or**

41 **(3) a family member or person closely associated with a
42 person described in subdivision (1) or (2);**



1 to reasonably fear for their physical safety, commits malicious
2 littering, a Class A misdemeanor.



COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. President: The Senate Committee on Corrections and Criminal Law, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 160, 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 1, line 4, delete "that obscures or is worn over a" and insert "**or device worn over the face for the purpose of concealing or disguising the wearer's identity.**".

Page 1, delete lines 5 through 17.

Page 2, delete lines 1 through 4.

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to SB 160 as introduced.)

FREEMAN, Chairperson

Committee Vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0.

 SENATE MOTION

Mr. President: I move that Senate Bill 160 be amended to read as follows:

Page 4, after line 29, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"SECTION 3. IC 35-45-3-4 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS** [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 4. A person who places or leaves refuse on the property of another person, with the intent to cause:**

(1) the owner or occupant of the property;

(2) an invitee of the owner or occupant of the property; or

(3) a family member or person closely associated with a person described in subdivision (1) or (2);

to reasonably fear for their physical safety, commits malicious littering, a Class A misdemeanor."

Re-number all SECTIONS consecutively.

(Reference is to SB 160 as printed January 14, 2026.)

FREEMAN



COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Courts and Criminal Code, to which was referred Senate Bill 160, 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 1, between lines 5 and 6, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"SECTION 2. IC 35-31.5-2-273.2, AS ADDED BY P.L.13-2013, SECTION 129, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 273.2. "Refuse", for purposes of IC 35-45-3-2 **and IC 35-45-3-4**, has the meaning set forth in IC 35-45-3-2(b)."

Renumber all SECTIONS consecutively.

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to SB 160 as reprinted January 21, 2026.)

MCNAMARA

Committee Vote: yeas 11, nays 1.

