
SENATE BILL No. 173

AM017304 has been incorporated into introduced printing.

Synopsis: Health care matters.

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Introduced

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. 173

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning health.

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

1 SECTION 1. IC 5-10-8-14.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
2 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
3 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 14.5. (a) **As used in this section**,
4 "anesthesia time" means the period beginning when an anesthesia
5 practitioner begins to prepare a patient for anesthesia services in
6 the operating room or an equivalent area and ends when the
7 anesthesia practitioner is no longer furnishing anesthesia services
8 to the patient. The term includes blocks of time around an
9 interruption in anesthesia time provided that the anesthesia
10 practitioner is furnishing continuous anesthesia care within the
11 time periods surrounding the interruption.

12 (b) **As used in this section**, "covered individual" means an
13 individual who is entitled to coverage under a state employee
14 health plan.

15 (c) **As used in this section**, "state employee health plan" means

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1 **a:**

2 **(1) self-insurance program established under section 7(b) of**
 3 **this chapter; or**
 4 **(2) contract with a prepaid health care delivery plan that is**
 5 **entered into or renewed under section 7(c) of this chapter;**
 6 **that is issued, amended, or renewed after June 30, 2026, to provide**
 7 **individual or group health coverage that includes coverage for**
 8 **anesthesia services.**

9 **(d) The state employee health plan may not impose any of the**
 10 **following concerning the provision of anesthesia services to a**
 11 **covered individual during a medical procedure:**

12 **(1) A time limit on the amount of covered anesthesia time for**
 13 **any medical procedure.**

14 **(2) Restrictions or exclusions of coverage or payment of**
 15 **anesthesia time.**

16 SECTION 2. IC 6-1.1-10-16, AS AMENDED BY P.L.230-2025,
 17 SECTION 26, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 18 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 16. (a) All or part of a building is exempt from
 19 property taxation if it is owned, occupied, and used by a person for
 20 educational, literary, scientific, religious, or charitable purposes.

21 (b) A building is exempt from property taxation if it is owned,
 22 occupied, and used by a town, city, township, or county for educational,
 23 literary, scientific, fraternal, or charitable purposes.

24 (c) A tract of land, including the campus and athletic grounds of
 25 an educational institution, is exempt from property taxation if:

26 (1) a building that is exempt under subsection (a) or (b) is
 27 situated on it;

28 (2) a parking lot or structure that serves a building referred to in
 29 subdivision (1) is situated on it; or

30 (3) the tract:

31 (A) is owned by a nonprofit entity established for the
 32 purpose of retaining and preserving land and water for their
 33 natural characteristics;

34 (B) does not exceed five hundred (500) acres; and

35 (C) is not used by the nonprofit entity to make a profit.

36 (d) A tract of land is exempt from property taxation if:

37 (1) it is purchased for the purpose of erecting a building that is
 38 to be owned, occupied, and used in such a manner that the
 39 building will be exempt under subsection (a) or (b); and

40 (2) not more than four (4) years after the property is purchased,
 41 and for each year after the four (4) year period, the owner
 42 demonstrates substantial progress and active pursuit towards the



1 erection of the intended building and use of the tract for the
2 exempt purpose. To establish substantial progress and active
3 pursuit under this subdivision, the owner must prove the
4 existence of factors such as the following:

5 (A) Organization of and activity by a building committee or
6 other oversight group.
7 (B) Completion and filing of building plans with the
8 appropriate local government authority.
9 (C) Cash reserves dedicated to the project of a sufficient
10 amount to lead a reasonable individual to believe the actual
11 construction can and will begin within four (4) years.
12 (D) The breaking of ground and the beginning of actual
13 construction.
14 (E) Any other factor that would lead a reasonable individual
15 to believe that construction of the building is an active plan
16 and that the building is capable of being completed within
17 eight (8) years considering the circumstances of the owner.

18 If the owner of the property sells, leases, or otherwise transfers a tract
19 of land that is exempt under this subsection, the owner is liable for the
20 property taxes that were not imposed upon the tract of land during the
21 period beginning January 1 of the fourth year following the purchase
22 of the property and ending on December 31 of the year of the sale,
23 lease, or transfer. The county auditor of the county in which the tract
24 of land is located may establish an installment plan for the repayment
25 of taxes due under this subsection. The plan established by the county
26 auditor may allow the repayment of the taxes over a period of years
27 equal to the number of years for which property taxes must be repaid
28 under this subsection.

29 (e) Personal property is exempt from property taxation if it is
30 owned and used in such a manner that it would be exempt under
31 subsection (a) or (b) if it were a building.

32 (f) A hospital's property that is exempt from property taxation
33 under subsection (a), (b), or (e) shall remain exempt from property
34 taxation even if the property is used in part to furnish goods or services
35 to another hospital whose property qualifies for exemption under this
36 section.

37 (g) Property owned by a shared hospital services organization that
38 is exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) or
39 501(e) of the Internal Revenue Code is exempt from property taxation
40 if it is owned, occupied, and used exclusively to furnish goods or
41 services to a hospital whose property is exempt from property taxation
42 under subsection (a), (b), or (e).



(1) provides or supports the provision of charity care (as defined in ~~IC 16-18-2-52.5~~, **IC 16-18-2-52.5(b)**), including providing funds or other financial support for health care services for individuals who are indigent (as defined in ~~IC 16-18-2-52.5(b)~~ **IC 16-18-2-52.5(c)** and ~~IC 16-18-2-52.5(c)~~, **IC 16-18-2-52.5(d)**); or

12 (2) provides or supports the provision of community benefits (as
13 defined in IC 16-21-9-1), including research, education, or
14 government sponsored indigent health care (as defined in
15 IC 16-21-9-2).

16 However, participation in the Medicaid or Medicare program alone
17 does not entitle an office, practice, or other property described in this
18 subsection to an exemption under this section.

24 (A) in a charitable manner;
25 (B) by a nonprofit organization; and
26 (C) to low income individuals who will:

27 (i) use the land as a family residence; and
28 (ii) not have an exemption for the land under this
29 section;

30 (2) the tract does not exceed three (3) acres; and

(3) the tract of land or the tract of land plus all or part of a structure on the land is not used for profit while exempt under this section.

34 (j) An exemption under subsection (i) terminates when the
35 property is conveyed by the nonprofit organization to another owner.

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1 subsection is liable for the amount of property taxes due on the
2 property conveyed if it were not for the exemption allowed under this
3 chapter.

4 (l) If property is granted an exemption in any year under
5 subsection (i) and the owner:

6 (1) fails to transfer the tangible property within eight (8) years
7 after the assessment date for which the exemption is initially
8 granted; or

9 (2) transfers the tangible property to a person who:

10 (A) is not a low income individual; or

11 (B) does not use the transferred property as a residence for
12 at least one (1) year after the property is transferred;

13 the person receiving the exemption shall notify the county recorder and
14 the county auditor of the county in which the property is located not
15 later than sixty (60) days after the event described in subdivision (1) or
16 (2) occurs. The county auditor shall immediately inform the county
17 assessor of a notification received under this subsection.

18 (m) If subsection (l)(1) or (l)(2) applies, the owner shall pay, not
19 later than the date that the next installment of property taxes is due, an
20 amount equal to the sum of the following:

21 (1) The total property taxes that, if it were not for the exemption
22 under subsection (i), would have been levied on the property in
23 each year in which an exemption was allowed.

24 (2) Interest on the property taxes at the rate of ten percent (10%)
25 per year.

26 (n) The liability imposed by subsection (m) is a lien upon the
27 property receiving the exemption under subsection (i). An amount
28 collected under subsection (m) shall be collected as an excess levy. If
29 the amount is not paid, it shall be collected in the same manner that
30 delinquent taxes on real property are collected.

31 (o) Property referred to in this section shall be assessed to the
32 extent required under IC 6-1.1-11-9.

33 (p) This subsection applies to assessment dates occurring before
34 January 1, 2026. A for-profit provider of early childhood education
35 services to children who are at least four (4) but less than six (6) years
36 of age on the annual assessment date may receive the exemption
37 provided by this section for property used for educational purposes
38 only if all the requirements of section 46 of this chapter are satisfied.
39 A for-profit provider of early childhood education services that
40 provides the services only to children younger than four (4) years of
41 age may not receive the exemption provided by this section for
42 property used for educational purposes.



(r) This subsection applies only to property taxes that are first due and payable in calendar years 2025 and 2026. All or part of a building is deemed to serve a charitable purpose and is exempt from property taxation if it is owned by a nonprofit entity that is:

11 (1) registered as a continuing care retirement community under
12 IC 23-2-4 and charges an entry fee of not more than five hundred
13 thousand dollars (\$500,000) per unit;
14 (2) defined as a small house health facility under
15 IC 16-18-2-331.9;
16 (3) licensed as a health care or residential care facility under
17 IC 16-28; or
18 (4) licensed under IC 31-27 and designated as a qualified
19 residential treatment provider that provides services under a
20 contract with the department of child services.

21 This subsection expires January 1, 2027.

22 SECTION 3. IC 6-1-10-18.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.230-2025,
23 SECTION 27, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
24 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 18.5. (a) This section does not exempt from
25 property tax an office or a practice of a physician or group of
26 physicians that is owned by a hospital licensed under IC 16-21-2 or
27 other property that is not substantially related to or supportive of the
28 inpatient facility of the hospital unless the office, practice, or other
29 property:

30 (1) provides or supports the provision of charity care (as defined
31 in ~~IC 16-18-2-52.5~~), **IC 16-18-2-52.5(b)**, including funds or
32 other financial support for health care services for individuals
33 who are indigent (as defined in ~~IC 16-18-2-52.5(b)~~
34 **IC 16-18-2-52.5(c)** and ~~IC 16-18-2-52.5(e)~~);
35 **IC 16-18-2-52.5(d)**); or
36 (2) provides or supports the provision of community benefits (as
37 defined in IC 16-21-9-1), including research, education, or
38 government sponsored indigent health care (as defined in
39 IC 16-21-9-2).

40 However, participation in the Medicaid or Medicare program, alone,
41 does not entitle an office, a practice, or other property described in this
42 subsection to an exemption under this section.



(b) Tangible property is exempt from property taxation if it is:

- (1) owned by an Indiana nonprofit corporation; and
- (2) used by an Indiana nonprofit corporation in the operation of a hospital licensed under IC 16-21, a health facility licensed under IC 16-28, a residential care facility for the aged and licensed under IC 16-28, or a Christian Science home or sanatorium.

(c) This subsection applies only to property taxes first due and payable in calendar years 2025 and 2026. Tangible property that is not otherwise exempt from property taxation under subsection (b) is exempt from property taxation if it is:

- (1) owned by an Indiana nonprofit corporation; and
- (2) used by an Indiana nonprofit corporation in the operation of a continuing care retirement community under IC 23-2-4 that charges an entry fee of not more than five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) per unit as described in section 16(r)(1) of this chapter, a small house health facility under IC 16-18-2-331.9, or a qualified residential treatment provider listed in section 16(r)(4) of this chapter.

This subsection expires January 1, 2027.

(d) Property referred to in this section shall be assessed to the extent required under IC 6-1.1-11-9.

SECTION 4. IC 12-15-5-22 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 22. (a) As used in this section, "anesthesia time" means the period beginning when an anesthesia practitioner begins to prepare a patient for anesthesia services in the operating room or an equivalent area and ends when the anesthesia practitioner is no longer furnishing anesthesia services to the patient. The term includes blocks of time around an interruption in anesthesia time provided that the anesthesia practitioner is furnishing continuous anesthesia care within the time periods surrounding the interruption.

(b) Unless otherwise prohibited by federal law, the state Medicaid plan may not impose any of the following concerning the provision of anesthesia services during a medical procedure:

- (1) A time limit on the amount of covered anesthesia time for any medical procedure.
- (2) Restrictions or exclusions of coverage or payment of anesthesia time.

SECTION 5. IC 16-18-2-52.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.188-2025,
SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE

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1 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 52.5. **(a) "Charity care", for purposes of**
 2 **IC 16-21-6 and IC 16-21-9, means medically necessary health care**
 3 **services provided free of charge or at a discounted rate under the**
 4 **hospital's written financial assistance policy to patients who meet**
 5 **income and asset criteria.**

6 ~~(a)~~ **(b) "Charity care", for purposes of IC 16-21-6, IC 16-21-9, and**
 7 **IC 16-40-6, means the unreimbursed cost to a hospital of providing,**
 8 **funding, or otherwise financially supporting health care services:**

9 (1) to a person classified by the hospital as financially indigent
 10 or medically indigent on an inpatient or outpatient basis; and
 11 (2) to financially indigent patients through other nonprofit or
 12 public outpatient clinics, hospitals, or health care organizations.

13 ~~(b)~~ **(c) As used in this section, subsection (b), "financially**
 14 **indigent" means an uninsured or underinsured person who is accepted**
 15 **for care with no obligation or a discounted obligation to pay for the**
 16 **services rendered based on the hospital's financial criteria and**
 17 **procedure used to determine if a patient is eligible for charity care. The**
 18 **criteria and procedure must include income levels and means testing**
 19 **indexed to the federal poverty guidelines. A hospital may determine**
 20 **that a person is financially or medically indigent under the hospital's**
 21 **eligibility system after health care services are provided.**

22 ~~(c)~~ **(d) As used in this section, subsection (b), "medically**
 23 **indigent" means a person whose medical or hospital bills after payment**
 24 **by third party payors exceed a specified percentage of the patient's**
 25 **annual gross income as determined in accordance with the hospital's**
 26 **eligibility system, and who is financially unable to pay the remaining**
 27 **bill.**

28 SECTION 6. IC 16-18-2-65.2 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
 29 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 30 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 65.2. "Community health needs**
 31 **assessment", for purposes of IC 16-21-9, has the meaning set forth**
 32 **in IC 16-21-9-1.5.**

33 SECTION 7. IC 16-18-2-247.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
 34 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 35 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 247.5. "Neuroplastogen", for**
 36 **purposes of IC 16-42-26.7, has the meaning set forth in**
 37 **IC 16-42-26.7-1.**

38 SECTION 8. IC 16-18-2-288, AS AMENDED BY P.L.96-2014,
 39 SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 40 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 288. (a) "Practitioner", for purposes of
 41 IC 16-42-19, has the meaning set forth in IC 16-42-19-5.

42 (b) "Practitioner", for purposes of IC 16-41-14, has the meaning



1 set forth in IC 16-41-14-4.

2 (c) "Practitioner", for purposes of IC 16-42-21, has the meaning set
3 forth in IC 16-42-21-3.

4 (d) "Practitioner", for purposes of IC 16-42-22 and IC 16-42-25,
5 has the meaning set forth in IC 16-42-22-4.5.

6 **(e) "Practitioner", for purposes of IC 16-42-26.7, has the
7 meaning set forth in IC 16-42-26.7-2.**

8 SECTION 9. IC 16-18-2-317.4 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
9 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
10 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 317.4. **"Research institution", for
11 purposes of IC 16-42-26.7, has the meaning set forth in
12 IC 16-42-26.7-3.**

13 SECTION 10. IC 16-21-9-1 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
14 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. **(a)** As used in this
15 chapter, "community benefits" means the unreimbursed cost to a
16 hospital of providing **the following**:

17 (1) Charity care.

18 (2) Government sponsored indigent health care. ~~donations,~~
19 ~~education;~~ ~~government sponsored program services;~~ ~~research;~~
20 ~~and subsidized health services.~~

21 (3) Subsidized clinical services provided despite a net
22 financial loss if not providing the services would result in the
23 community loss of access to the services.

24 (4) Services and activities that address needs identified in the
25 nonprofit hospital's community health needs assessment.

26 (b) The term does not include **any of the following**:

27 (1) The cost to the hospital of paying any taxes or other
28 governmental assessments.

29 (2) **Bad debt.**

30 (3) Contractual allowances and discounts negotiated with
31 third party payors.

32 (4) Payment disruptions unrelated to hospital policy.

33 (5) Staff education required for licensure or certification.

34 (6) Activities with a primary purpose of marketing, lobbying,
35 fundraising, or routine operations.

36 SECTION 11. IC 16-21-9-1.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
37 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
38 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1.5. **As used in this chapter,
39 "community health needs assessment" refers to a nonprofit
40 hospital's most recent assessment that meets the requirements set
41 forth in 26 U.S.C. 501(r)(3).**

42 SECTION 12. IC 16-21-9-7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.6-2012,



1 SECTION 115, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
2 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7. (a) Each nonprofit hospital shall
3 prepare an annual report of the community benefits plan. The report
4 must include, in addition to the community benefits plan itself, the
5 following **background** information:
6 (1) The hospital's mission statement.
7 (2) A disclosure of the health care needs of the community that
8 were considered in developing the hospital's community benefits
9 plan.
10 (3) A disclosure of the amount and types of community benefits
11 actually provided, including charity care. Charity care must be
12 reported as a separate item from other community benefits.
13 (4) **The following information concerning the hospital's**
14 **charity care program:**
15 (A) **The eligibility criteria.**
16 (B) **The number of program applications received by the**
17 **hospital in the previous calendar year.**
18 (C) **The number of approvals and denials of the**
19 **applications received, as described in clause (B).**
20 (5) **Each government sponsored indigent health care**
21 **program that the hospital participated in during the previous**
22 **calendar year and the net cost of the program to the hospital.**
23 **Net costs must account for any supplemental payments made**
24 **to the hospital under the program, including those provided**
25 **under IC 12-15-16.**
26 (6) **A list of each clinical service provided at a subsidized cost**
27 **by the hospital and the net cost to the hospital for the**
28 **subsidized clinical service.**
29 (7) **A list of each service provided, and any activity invested**
30 **in, to address any need identified in the community health**
31 **needs assessment, and the following information for each**
32 **service or activity listed:**
33 (A) **The net cost of each item.**
34 (B) **The need in the community health needs assessment**
35 **that each item addresses.**
36 (C) **The estimated impact of the item on addressing the**
37 **identified need.**
38 (8) **An estimate of the value of the:**
39 (A) **sales tax exemption under IC 6-2.5-5; and**
40 (B) **property tax exemption under IC 6-1.1-10;**
41 **for the hospital.**
42 (9) **Any net revenue derived from the hospital's participation**

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(b) Not later than one hundred twenty (120) days after the close of a nonprofit hospital's fiscal year, each nonprofit hospital shall annually file a the report of the community benefits plan described in subsection (a) with the state department. For a hospital's fiscal year that ends before July 1, 2011, the report must be filed not later than one hundred twenty (120) days after the close of the hospital's fiscal year. For a hospital's fiscal year that ends after June 30, 2011, the report must be filed at the same time the nonprofit hospital files its annual return described under Section 6033 of the Internal Revenue Code that is timely filed under Section 6072(e) of the Internal Revenue Code, including any applicable extension authorized under Section 6081 of the Internal Revenue Code. The nonprofit hospital shall post the report on the nonprofit hospital's website.

16 (c) Each nonprofit hospital shall prepare a statement that notifies
17 the public that the annual report of the community benefits plan is:

18 (1) public information;
19 (2) filed with the state department; and
20 (3) available to the public on **the nonprofit hospital's website**
21 **and by** request from the state department.

22 This statement shall be posted in prominent places throughout the
23 hospital, including the emergency room waiting area and the
24 admissions office waiting area. The statement shall also be printed in
25 the hospital patient guide or other material that provides the patient
26 with information about the admissions criteria of the hospital.

27 (d) Each nonprofit hospital shall develop a written notice about
28 any charity care program operated by the hospital and how to apply for
29 charity care. The notice must be in appropriate languages if possible.
30 The notice must also be conspicuously posted in the following areas:

31 (1) The general waiting area.
32 (2) The waiting area for emergency services.
33 (3) The business office.
34 (4) Any other area that the hospital considers an appropriate area
35 in which to provide notice of a charity care program.

38 SECTION 13. IC 16-21-9-8 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
39 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 8. **(a)** The state
40 department may assess a civil penalty against a nonprofit hospital that
41 fails to make a report of the community benefits plan as required under
42 this chapter. The penalty may not exceed ~~one ten~~ thousand dollars



1 (\$1,000) (\$10,000) for each day a report is delinquent after the date on
 2 which the report is due. No penalty may be assessed against a hospital
 3 under this section until thirty (30) business days have elapsed after
 4 written notification to the hospital of its failure to file a report.

5 **(b) The penalty collected under this section shall be deposited**
 6 **in the local public health fund established by IC 16-46-10-1.**

7 SECTION 14. IC 16-42-26.7 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
 8 CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 9 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]:

10 **Chapter 26.7. Right to Try Investigational Neuroplastogens**
 11 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "neuroplastogen" means a drug**
 12 **or compound that:**

- 13 (1) demonstrates rapid onset neuroplastic effects in humans;
 14 and
- 15 (2) has successfully completed Phase I of a federal Food and
 16 Drug Administration approved clinical trial.

17 The term includes psilocybin (as defined in IC 12-21-9-2).

18 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "practitioner" means a health**
 19 **professional who:**

- 20 (1) is licensed and in good standing under IC 25;
- 21 (2) has prescriptive authority; and
- 22 (3) is acting within the health professional's scope of practice.

23 **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "research institution" means an**
 24 **organization that meets all of the following:**

- 25 (1) Has an academic institution that operates an institutional
 26 review board (IRB) that oversees research.
- 27 (2) Publishes the results of previous clinical trials in peer
 28 reviewed publications.
- 29 (3) Has access to a clinical research center and the center's
 30 resources, including research dedicated medical staff.

31 **Sec. 4. An individual must meet the following requirements in**
 32 **order to qualify as an eligible patient under this chapter:**

- 33 (1) Has been diagnosed with a life threatening condition as
 34 defined in 21 CFR 312.81 and meets the criteria set forth in
 35 21 U.S.C. 360bbb-0a.
- 36 (2) Provides written informed consent to the practitioner for
 37 the treatment.

38 **Sec. 5. (a) Notwithstanding IC 35-48, a practitioner may**
 39 **administer or supervise the psychotherapy supported**
 40 **administration of a neuroplastogen to a patient if the following**
 41 **conditions are met:**

- 42 (1) The practitioner has evaluated the patient, reviewed the



patient's medical history, and documented in the patient's medical charts the clinical rationale for the practitioner determining that the patient is qualified and could benefit from the treatment.

(2) The practitioner has obtained and documented the patient's written informed consent as set forth in subsection (b) for the treatment.

(3) The patient meets the requirements set forth in section 4 of this chapter.

(4) The practitioner takes reasonable steps to ensure patient safety, including structured psychological monitoring and integration services, during the patient's neuroplastogen treatment and recovery.

(5) The neuroplastogen is obtained from a manufacturer or distributor that is registered with the federal Drug Enforcement Agency.

(6) The practitioner notifies the state department in the manner prescribed by the state department not later than thirty (30) days from the initial administration of the neuroplastogen to a patient.

(7) The practitioner submits the report required by section 7 of this chapter.

(b) Written informed consent under subsection (a)(2) must include the following:

(1) An explanation of the currently approved products and treatments for the individual's condition.

(2) An attestation by the individual of the individual's life threatening condition and that the individual concurs with the individual's physician that all currently approved treatments are unlikely to prolong the individual's life or improve the individual's life threatening condition.

(3) A clear identification of the investigational neuroplastogen treatment proposed to be used to treat the individual.

(4) A description of the best and worst outcomes, including the most likely outcome, resulting from use of the investigational treatment of the individual's life threatening condition. The description of outcomes must be based on the treating physician's knowledge of both the investigational neuroplastogen treatment and the individual's life threatening condition.

(5) A statement acknowledging that new, unanticipated,

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1 different, or worse symptoms or death may result from the
2 proposed treatment.

3 (6) A statement that the individual's health insurance may
4 not be obligated to pay for any care or treatment and that
5 the patient may be liable for all expenses of the treatment
6 unless specifically required to do so by contract or law.

7 (7) A statement that eligibility for hospice care may be
8 withdrawn if the individual begins investigational
9 neuroplastogen treatment and does not meet hospice care
10 eligibility requirements.

11 (8) A statement that the individual or the individual's legal
12 guardian consents to the investigational neuroplastogen
13 treatment for the life threatening condition.

14 (c) The state department shall establish a notification
15 procedure described in subsection (a)(6) to be used under this
16 chapter.

17 Sec. 6. (a) A practitioner, research institution, or clinic may
18 conduct neuroplastogen outcomes access research if the following
19 conditions are met:

20 (1) Any data collected and maintained in a patient registry
21 that complies with the federal Health Insurance Portability
22 and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and only includes
23 de-identified patient data.

24 (2) The practitioner or clinic follows any best practice
25 guidelines and protocols that have been issued by the United
26 States Department of Health and Human Services, including:

27 (A) safety monitoring;
28 (B) psychotherapy support; and
29 (C) outcome measures.

30 (b) The state department may do the following:

31 (1) Implement Institutional Review Board (IRB) oversight
32 protocols, including protocols for streamlined reporting of
33 data under this chapter.

34 (2) Collaborate with research institutions in the development
35 of standards and protocols to be used for research conducted
36 under this chapter.

37 (3) Establish a registry to maintain data collected under this
38 chapter.

39 (4) Adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to implement this chapter,
40 including rules concerning the following:

41 (A) Safety standards.
42 (B) Standardized informed consent forms.



- (C) Data elements for inclusion in a registry.**
- (D) Adverse event reporting.**
- (E) Staff qualifications for psychotherapy support.**
- (F) Standardized notification forms for section 4 of this chapter.**
- (G) Report formatting.**

7 Sec. 7. (a) Before February 1 of each year, a practitioner who
8 performs neuroplastogen treatment under this chapter shall report
9 the following information concerning the previous calendar year
10 to the state department:

- (1) The number of patients for whom the practitioner has conducted neuroplastogen treatment.
- (2) Each neuroplastogen used and the typical dosage range.
- (3) Any adverse event (as defined in 21 CFR 312.32(a)).

15 The report may not include patient identifying information.

20 **Sec. 8. Nothing in this chapter may be construed to do any of**
21 **the following:**

- (1) Allow nonmedical use of neuroplastogens.
- (2) Supersede federal law or regulation.
- (3) Reschedule a controlled substance.
- (4) Create a fiscal burden on the state.
- (5) Require a practitioner, clinic, research institution, or other person to participate in providing treatment under this chapter.
- (6) Mandate insurance coverage for treatment under this chapter.

31 Sec. 9. A practitioner, eligible facility (as defined in
32 IC 16-42-26.5-1), research institution, or other person participating
33 in providing treatment that complies with the requirements of this
34 chapter is immune from criminal or civil liability.

35 SECTION 15. IC 16-46-10-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.164-2023,
36 SECTION 39, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
37 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) The local public health fund is established
38 for the purpose of providing local boards of health with funds as
39 provided in sections 2.1 through 2.3 of this chapter to provide public
40 health services. The fund shall be administered by the state department
41 and consists of:

(1) appropriations by the general assembly;

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(2) penalties paid and deposited in the fund under IC 6-8-11-17 and IC 16-21-9-8; and

(3) amounts, if any, that another statute requires to be distributed to the fund from the Indiana tobacco master settlement agreement fund.

(b) The expenses of administering the fund shall be paid from money in the fund.

(c) The treasurer of state shall invest the money in the fund not currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same manner as other public funds may be invested. Interest that accrues from these investments shall be deposited in the fund.

SECTION 16. IC 25-27-1-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.156-2020, SECTION 107, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. For the purposes of this chapter:

(1) "Physical therapy" means the care and services provided by or under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist that includes any of the following:

(A) Examining, evaluating, and conduct testing (as defined in subdivision (16)) (14)) on patients with mechanical, physiological, or developmental impairments, functional limitations, and disabilities or other health and movement related conditions in order to determine a physical therapy diagnosis.

(B) Alleviating impairments, functional limitations, and disabilities by designing, implementing, and modifying treatment interventions that may include therapeutic exercise, functional training in home, community, or work integration or reintegration that is related to physical movement and mobility, manual therapy, including soft tissue and joint mobilization or manipulation, therapeutic massage, prescription, application, and fabrication of assistive, adaptive, orthotic, protective, and supportive devices and equipment, including prescription and application of prosthetic devices and equipment, airway clearance techniques, integumentary protection and repair techniques, debridement and wound care, physical agents or modalities, mechanical and electrotherapeutic modalities, and patient related instruction.

(C) Using solid filiform needles to treat neuromusculoskeletal pain and dysfunction (dry needling), after completing board approved continuing education and complying with applicable board rules. However, a physical

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therapist may not engage in the practice of acupuncture (as defined in IC 25-2.5-1-5) unless the physical therapist is licensed under IC 25-2.5.

(D) Reducing the risk of injury, impairment, functional limitation, and disability, including the promotion and maintenance of fitness, health, and wellness in populations of all ages.

(E) Engaging in administration, consultation, education, and research.

10 (2) "Physical therapist" means a person who is licensed under
11 this chapter to practice physical therapy.

12 (3) "Physical therapist assistant" means a person who:

13 (A) is certified under this chapter; and

14 (B) assists a physical therapist in selected components of
15 physical therapy treatment interventions.

16 (4) "Board" refers to the Indiana board of physical therapy.

17 (5) "Physical therapy aide" means support personnel who
18 perform designated tasks related to the operation of physical
19 therapy services.

20 (6) "Person" means an individual.

(7) "Sharp debridement" means the removal of foreign material or dead tissue from or around a wound, without anesthesia and with generally no bleeding, through the use of:

24 (A) a sterile scalpel.

25 (B) scissors

25 (B) scissors,
26 (C) forceps.

26 (C) forceps,
27 (D) tweezers or

(E) tweezers, or
(F) other sharp medical instruments:

(E) other sharp medical instruments, in order to expose healthy tissue, prevent infection, and promote healing.

(8) "Spinal manipulation" means a method of skillful and beneficial treatment by which a physical therapist uses direct thrust to move a joint of the patient's spine beyond its normal range of motion, but without exceeding the limits of anatomical integrity.

36 (9) (7) "Tasks" means activities that do not require the clinical
37 decision making of a physical therapist or the clinical problem
38 solving of a physical therapist assistant.

(10) (8) "Competence" is the application of knowledge, skills, and behaviors required to function effectively, safely, ethically, and legally within the context of the patient's role and environment.

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1 **(11) (9)** "Continuing competence" is the process of maintaining
 2 and documenting competence through ongoing self-assessment,
 3 development, and implementation of a personal learning plan
 4 and subsequent reassessment.

5 **(12) (10)** "State" means a state, territory, or possession of the
 6 United States, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth
 7 of Puerto Rico.

8 **(13) (11)** "Direct supervision" means that a physical therapist or
 9 physical therapist assistant is physically present and immediately
 10 available to direct and supervise tasks that are related to patient
 11 management.

12 **(14) (12)** "General supervision" means supervision provided by
 13 a physical therapist who is available by telecommunication.

14 **(15) (13)** "Onsite supervision" means supervision provided by a
 15 physical therapist who is continuously onsite and present in the
 16 department or facility where services are provided. The
 17 supervising therapist must be immediately available to the
 18 person being supervised and maintain continued involvement in
 19 the necessary aspects of patient care.

20 **(16) (14)** "Conduct testing" means standard methods and
 21 techniques used to gather data about a patient, including, subject
 22 to section 2.5(e) 2.5 of this chapter, electrodiagnostic and
 23 electrophysiologic tests and measures. ~~The term does not include~~
 24 ~~x-rays~~.

25 **(17) (15)** "Physical therapy diagnosis" means a systematic
 26 examination, evaluation, and testing process that culminates in
 27 identifying the dysfunction toward which physical therapy
 28 treatment will be directed. The term does not include a medical
 29 diagnosis.

30 SECTION 17. IC 25-27-1-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.143-2022,
 31 SECTION 73, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 32 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter
 33 and IC 25-27-2, it is unlawful for a person or business entity to do the
 34 following:

35 (1) Practice physical therapy without first obtaining from the
 36 board a license authorizing the person to practice physical
 37 therapy in this state.

38 (2) Profess to be or promote an employee to be a physical
 39 therapist, physiotherapist, doctor of physiotherapy, doctor of
 40 physical therapy, or registered physical therapist or to use the
 41 initials "P.T.", "D.P.T.", "L.P.T.", or "R.P.T.", or any other
 42 letters, words, abbreviations, or insignia indicating that physical



1 therapy is provided by a physical therapist, unless physical
 2 therapy is provided by or under the direction of a physical
 3 therapist.

4 (3) Advertise services for physical therapy or physiotherapy
 5 services, unless the individual performing those services is a
 6 physical therapist.

7 (b) ~~Except as provided in subsection (e) and section 2.5 of this~~
 8 chapter; it is unlawful for a person to practice physical therapy other
 9 than upon the order or referral of a physician, a podiatrist, a
 10 psychologist, a chiropractor, a dentist, an advanced practice registered
 11 nurse, or a physician assistant holding an unlimited license to practice
 12 medicine, podiatric medicine, psychology, chiropractic, dentistry,
 13 nursing, or as a physician assistant, respectively. It is unlawful for a
 14 physical therapist to use the services of a physical therapist assistant
 15 except as provided under this chapter. For the purposes of this
 16 subsection, the function of:

17 (1) teaching;
 18 (2) doing research;
 19 (3) providing advisory services; or
 20 (4) conducting seminars on physical therapy;
 21 is not considered to be a practice of physical therapy.

22 (c) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter and IC 25-27-2,
 23 it is unlawful for a person to profess to be or act as a physical therapist
 24 assistant or to use the initials "P.T.A." or any other letters, words,
 25 abbreviations, or insignia indicating that the person is a physical
 26 therapist assistant without first obtaining from the board a certificate
 27 authorizing the person to act as a physical therapist assistant. It is
 28 unlawful for the person to act as a physical therapist assistant other
 29 than under the general supervision of a licensed physical therapist who
 30 is in responsible charge of a patient. However, nothing in this chapter
 31 prohibits a person licensed or registered in this state under another law
 32 from engaging in the practice for which the person is licensed or
 33 registered. These exempted persons include persons engaged in the
 34 practice of osteopathic medicine, chiropractic, or podiatric medicine.

35 (d) ~~Except as provided in section 2.5 of this chapter;~~ This chapter
 36 does not authorize a person who is licensed as a physical therapist or
 37 certified as a physical therapist assistant to:

38 (1) evaluate any physical disability or mental disorder except
 39 upon the order or referral of a physician, a podiatrist, a
 40 psychologist, a chiropractor, a physician assistant, an advanced
 41 practice registered nurse, or a dentist;
 42 (2) (1) practice medicine, surgery (as described in



1 IC 25-22.5-1-1.1(a)(1)(C)), dentistry, optometry, osteopathic
 2 medicine, psychology, chiropractic, or podiatric medicine; or
 3 (3) (2) prescribe a drug or other remedial substance used in
 4 medicine.

5 (e) Upon the referral of a licensed school psychologist, a physical
 6 therapist who is:

7 (1) licensed under this article; and

8 (2) an employee or contractor of a school corporation;

9 may provide mandated school services to a student that are within the
 10 physical therapist's scope of practice.

11 SECTION 18. IC 25-27-1-2.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.160-2019,
 12 SECTION 11, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 13 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2.5. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), a
 14 physical therapist may evaluate and treat an individual during a period
 15 not to exceed forty-two (42) calendar days beginning with the date of
 16 the initiation of treatment without a referral from a provider described
 17 in section 2(b) of this chapter. However, if the individual needs
 18 additional treatment from the physical therapist after forty-two (42)
 19 calendar days, the physical therapist shall obtain a referral from the
 20 individual's provider, as described in section 2(b) of this chapter.

21 (b) A physical therapist may not perform spinal manipulation of
 22 the spinal column or the vertebral column unless:

23 (1) the physical therapist is acting on the order or referral of a
 24 physician; an osteopathic physician; or a chiropractor; and
 25 (2) the referring physician; osteopathic physician; or chiropractor
 26 has examined the patient before issuing the order or referral.

27 (e) A physical therapist who conducts testing using
 28 electrophysiologic or electrodiagnostic testing must obtain and
 29 maintain the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties Clinical
 30 Electrophysiologic Specialist Certification.

31 SECTION 19. IC 25-27-1-3.5 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY
 32 1, 2026]. Sec. 3.5. A physical therapist may not perform sharp
 33 debridement unless the physical therapist is acting on the order or
 34 referral of a:

35 (1) physician or osteopath licensed under IC 25-22.5; or
 36 (2) podiatrist licensed under IC 25-29.

37 SECTION 20. IC 27-1-7-2.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
 38 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 39 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2.5. (a) This section applies to a
 40 policy of health insurance coverage that is issued, delivered,
 41 amended, or renewed after June 30, 2026.

42 (b) As used in this section, "health carrier" has the meaning



1 **set forth in IC 27-1-46-3.**

2 **(c) A health carrier may not contract with, enter into an**
 3 **agreement with, or use a pharmacy benefit manager to provide**
 4 **services for a policy of health insurance coverage described in**
 5 **subsection (a) if the health carrier has an ownership interest in the**
 6 **pharmacy benefit manager.**

7 **(d) A person that willfully violates this section commits an**
 8 **unfair and deceptive act or practice in the business of insurance**
 9 **under IC 27-4-1-4 and is subject to the penalties and procedures set**
 10 **forth in IC 27-4-1.**

11 SECTION 21. IC 27-1-24.2-16, AS ADDED BY P.L.189-2025,
 12 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 13 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 16. (a) Except as provided in section 15 of this
 14 chapter, with respect to the provision of pharmacy or pharmacist
 15 services under a health plan, an insurer, a pharmacy benefit manager,
 16 or any other administrator of pharmacy benefits may not:

17 (1) prohibit a pharmacy or pharmacist from, or impose a penalty
 18 on a pharmacy or pharmacist for:

19 (A) selling a lower cost alternative to an insured, if a lower
 20 cost alternative is available; or

21 (B) providing information to an insured under subsection
 22 (c);

23 (2) discriminate against any pharmacy or pharmacist that is:

24 (A) located within the geographic coverage area of the
 25 health plan; and

26 (B) willing to agree to, or accept, terms and conditions
 27 established for participation in the insurer's, pharmacy
 28 benefit manager's, other administrator's, or health plan's
 29 network;

30 (3) impose limits, including quantity limits or refill frequency
 31 limits, on an insured's access to medication from a pharmacy that
 32 are more restrictive than those existing for a pharmacy affiliate;

33 (4) except as provided in subsection (b), require an insured to
 34 receive pharmacy or pharmacist services from a pharmacy
 35 affiliate, including:

36 (A) requiring an insured to obtain a specialty drug from a
 37 pharmacy affiliate; and

38 (B) charging less cost sharing to insureds that use pharmacy
 39 affiliates than what is charged to insureds that use
 40 nonaffiliated pharmacies;

41 (5) require a pharmacy or pharmacist to enter into an additional
 42 contract with an affiliate of the insurer, pharmacy benefit



1 manager, or other administrator of pharmacy benefits as a
 2 condition of entering into a contract with this insurer, pharmacy
 3 benefit manager, or administrator; **or**
 4 (6) require a pharmacy or pharmacist to, as a condition of a
 5 contract, agree to payment rates for any affiliate of the insurer,
 6 pharmacy benefit manager, or other administrator of pharmacy
 7 benefits that is not a party to the contract; **or**
 8 **(7) designate a prescription drug as a specialty drug unless**
 9 **the drug is a limited distribution that:**
 10 **(A) requires special handling; and**
 11 **(B) is not commonly carried at retail pharmacies or**
 12 **oncology clinics or practices.**

13 (b) Subsection (a)(4):
 14 (1) does not apply to a mail order pharmacy; and
 15 (2) may not be construed to prohibit:
 16 (A) communications to insureds regarding networks and
 17 prices if the communication is accurate and includes
 18 information about all eligible nonaffiliated pharmacies; or
 19 (B) an insurer, a pharmacy benefit manager, or any other
 20 administrator of pharmacy benefits from providing financial
 21 incentives for utilizing the network, if the insurer, pharmacy
 22 benefit manager, or other administrator complies with this
 23 section and section 14 of this chapter.

24 (c) A pharmacist shall have the right to provide an insured with
 25 information regarding lower cost alternatives to assist the insured in
 26 making informed decisions.

27 SECTION 22. IC 27-1-24.5-18.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
 28 CODE AS A **NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS**
 29 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 18.5. (a) This section applies to a**
 30 **policy of health insurance coverage that is issued, delivered,**
 31 **amended, or renewed after June 30, 2026.**

32 (b) **As used in this section, "health carrier" has the meaning**
 33 **set forth in IC 27-1-46-3.**

34 (c) **A pharmacy benefit manager licensed under this chapter**
 35 **may not provide services under a policy of health insurance**
 36 **coverage for a health carrier that has an ownership interest in the**
 37 **pharmacy benefit manager.**

38 SECTION 23. IC 27-1-24.5-18.6 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
 39 CODE AS A **NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS**
 40 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 18.6. A pharmacy benefit**
 41 **manager licensed under this chapter may not have an ownership**
 42 **interest in a pharmacy.**



1 SECTION 24. IC 27-1-37.5-17, AS AMENDED BY
2 P.L.144-2025, SECTION 27, IS AMENDED TO READ AS
3 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 17. (a) As used in this
4 section, "necessary information" includes the results of any face-to-face
5 clinical evaluation, second opinion, or other clinical information that
6 is directly applicable to the requested health care service that may be
7 required.

8 (b) If a utilization review entity makes an adverse determination
9 on a prior authorization request by a covered individual's health care
10 provider, the utilization review entity must offer the covered
11 individual's health care provider the option to request a peer to peer
12 review by a clinical peer concerning the adverse determination.

13 (c) A covered individual's health care provider may request a peer
14 to peer review by a clinical peer either in writing or electronically.

15 (d) If a peer to peer review by a clinical peer is requested under
16 this section:

17 (1) the utilization review entity's clinical peer and the covered
18 individual's health care provider or the health care provider's
19 designee shall make every effort to provide the peer to peer
20 review not later than forty-eight (48) hours (excluding weekends
21 and state and federal legal holidays) after the utilization review
22 entity receives the request by the covered individual's health care
23 provider for a peer to peer review if the utilization review entity
24 has received the necessary information for the peer to peer
25 review; **and**

26 (2) the utilization review entity must have the peer to peer
27 review conducted between the clinical peer and the covered
28 individual's health care provider or the provider's designee; **and**
29 **(3) the clinical peer must disclose the clinical peer's:**

- 30 **(A) full name;**
- 31 **(B) licensure; and**
- 32 **(C) speciality, if applicable;**

33 **to the covered individual's health care provider or the**
34 **provider's designee .**

35 SECTION 25. IC 27-1-37.5-19.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
36 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
37 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 19.5. **(a) A utilization review**
38 **entity may not use artificial intelligence as the primary means for**
39 **making adverse determinations.**

40 **(b) A utilization review entity must disclose in an easily**
41 **accessible and readable manner when artificial intelligence is used**
42 **during any part of the prior authorization review process.**



1 SECTION 26. IC 27-1-37.5-20, AS ADDED BY P.L.144-2025,
 2 SECTION 29, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 3 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 20. (a) A utilization review entity must ensure
 4 that:

5 (1) all:
 6 (A) adverse determinations based on medical necessity are
 7 made;
 8 **(B) adverse determinations made through the use of
 9 artificial intelligence;** and
 10 **(B)** (C) appeals are reviewed and decided;
 11 by a clinical peer; and
 12 (2) when making an adverse determination ~~based on medical
 13 necessity~~ or reviewing and deciding an appeal ~~under
 14 subdivision (1)~~, the clinical peer is under the clinical direction
 15 of a medical director of the utilization review entity who is:
 16 (A) responsible for the provision of health care services
 17 provided to covered individuals; and
 18 (B) a physician licensed in Indiana under IC 25-22.5.
 19 (b) An appeal may not be reviewed or decided by a clinical peer
 20 who:
 21 (1) has a financial interest in the outcome of the appeal; or
 22 (2) was involved in making the adverse determination that is the
 23 subject of the appeal.

24 SECTION 27. IC 27-1-52.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
 25 CODE AS A **NEW CHAPTER** TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 26 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]:

27 **Chapter 52.5. Downcoding of Medical Claims**

28 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "CARC" refers to the claim
 29 adjustment reason codes that provide the reason for a financial
 30 adjustment specified to a particular claim or service, as referenced
 31 in the transmitted Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) X12
 32 835 standard transaction adopted by the Department of Health and
 33 Human Services under 45 CFR 162.1602.**

34 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "downcoding" means the
 35 unilateral alteration by a health insurer of the level of evaluation
 36 and management service code or other service code submitted on
 37 a claim that results in a lower payment.**

38 **Sec. 3. (a) As used in this chapter, "health insurer" means an
 39 entity:**

40 **(1) that is subject to this title and the administrative rules
 41 adopted under this title; and**
 42 **(2) that enters into a contract to:**



(b) The term includes the following:

- (1) An insurer (as defined in IC 27-1-2-3(x)) that issues a policy of accident and sickness insurance (as defined in IC 27-8-5-1(a)).
- (2) A health maintenance organization (as defined in IC 27-13-1-19).
- (3) An administrator (as defined in IC 27-1-25-1(a)) that is licensed under IC 27-1-25.
- (4) A state employee health plan offered under IC 5-10-8.
- (5) A short term insurance plan (as defined in IC 27-8-5.9-3).
- (6) Any other entity that provides a plan of health insurance, health benefits, or health care services.

(c) The term does not include:

- (1) an insurer that issues a policy of accident and sickness insurance;
- (2) a limited service health maintenance organization (as defined in IC 27-13-34-4); or
- (3) an administrator;

that only provides coverage for, or processes claims for, dental or vision care services.

Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "RARC" refers to remittance advice remark codes that provide:

- (1) supplemental information about a financial adjustment indicated by a CARC; or
- (2) information about remittance processing.

Sec. 5. (a) A health insurer may not use an automated:

- (1) process;
- (2) system; or
- (3) tool, including artificial intelligence;

to downcode a claim.

(b) A downcoding decision must be made by a physician who:

- (1) is licensed in Indiana under IC 25-22.5;**
- (2) has the same specialty as the treating physician; and**
- (3) performs a documented review of the clinical information supporting the billed service.**

Sec. 6. A health insurer may not downcode a claim based solely on the reported diagnosis code.

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Sec. 7. If a claim is downcoded, the health insurer shall:

(1) notify the physician using the appropriate CARC and RARC to clearly indicate that the claim has been downcoded; and

(2) provide:

(A) the specific reason for the downcoding, including reference to the clinical criteria used to justify the downcoding;

(B) the original and revised service codes and payment amounts;

(C) the:

(i) national provider identifier;

(ii) credentials;

(iii) board certifications; and

(iv) areas of specialty expertise and training;

of the physician who is responsible for the downcoding decision; and

(D) a notice of the right to appeal as described in section 8 of this chapter.

Sec. 8. (a) A health insurer shall provide physicians with a clear and accessible process for appealing downcoded claims, including:

(1) a written or electronic notice detailing how to initiate an appeal;

(2) contact information for the individual managing the appeal;

- (3) a timeline for submission of an appeal that is not less than one hundred eighty (180) days; and
- (4) a timeline for adjudication of an appeal that is not later

(4) a timeline for adjudication of an appeal that is not later than forty-eight (48) hours after an appeal is submitted.

(b) A health insurer shall allow a physician to appeal in batches of similar claims involving substantially similar downcoding issues without restriction.

Sec. 9. A health insurer may not use downcoding practices in a targeted or discriminatory manner against physicians who routinely treat patients with complex or chronic conditions.

Sec. 10. (a) The department has the authority to enforce this chapter.

(b) The department may do any of the following:

(1) Impose monetary penalties of not more than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) per violation of this chapter.

(2) Order a health insurer to reprocess improperly



downcoded claims with interest.

(3) If a pattern or practice of discriminatory downcoding is identified by the department, suspend a health insurer's certificate of authority or license.

SECTION 28. IC 27-4-1-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.158-2024, SECTION 19, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. (a) The following are hereby defined as unfair methods of competition and unfair and deceptive acts and practices in the business of insurance:

(1) Making, issuing, circulating, or causing to be made, issued, or circulated, any estimate, illustration, circular, or statement;

(A) misrepresenting the terms of any policy issued or to be issued or the benefits or advantages promised thereby or the dividends or share of the surplus to be received thereon;

(B) making any false or misleading statement as to the dividends or share of surplus previously paid on similar policies;

(C) making any misleading representation or any misrepresentation as to the financial condition of any insurer, or as to the legal reserve system upon which any life insurer operates;

(D) using any name or title of any policy or class of policies misrepresenting the true nature thereof; or

(E) making any misrepresentation to any policyholder insured in any company for the purpose of inducing or tending to induce such policyholder to lapse, forfeit, or surrender the policyholder's insurance.

(2) Making, publishing, disseminating, circulating, or placing before the public, or causing, directly or indirectly, to be made, published, disseminated, circulated, or placed before the public, in a newspaper, magazine, or other publication, or in the form of a notice, circular, pamphlet, letter, or poster, or over any radio or television station, or in any other way, an advertisement, announcement, or statement containing any assertion, representation, or statement with respect to any person in the conduct of the person's insurance business, which is untrue, deceptive, or misleading.

(3) Making, publishing, disseminating, or circulating, directly or indirectly, or aiding, abetting, or encouraging the making, publishing, disseminating, or circulating of any oral or written statement or any pamphlet, circular, article, or literature which is false, or maliciously critical of or derogatory to the financial

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1 condition of an insurer, and which is calculated to injure any
2 person engaged in the business of insurance.

3 (4) Entering into any agreement to commit, or individually or by
4 a concerted action committing any act of boycott, coercion, or
5 intimidation resulting or tending to result in unreasonable
6 restraint of, or a monopoly in, the business of insurance.

7 (5) Filing with any supervisory or other public official, or
8 making, publishing, disseminating, circulating, or delivering to
9 any person, or placing before the public, or causing directly or
10 indirectly, to be made, published, disseminated, circulated,
11 delivered to any person, or placed before the public, any false
12 statement of financial condition of an insurer with intent to
13 deceive. Making any false entry in any book, report, or statement
14 of any insurer with intent to deceive any agent or examiner
15 lawfully appointed to examine into its condition or into any of its
16 affairs, or any public official to which such insurer is required by
17 law to report, or which has authority by law to examine into its
18 condition or into any of its affairs, or, with like intent, willfully
19 omitting to make a true entry of any material fact pertaining to
20 the business of such insurer in any book, report, or statement of
21 such insurer.

22 (6) Issuing or delivering or permitting agents, officers, or
23 employees to issue or deliver, agency company stock or other
24 capital stock, or benefit certificates or shares in any common law
25 corporation, or securities or any special or advisory board
26 contracts or other contracts of any kind promising returns and
27 profits as an inducement to insurance.

28 (7) Making or permitting any of the following:

29 (A) Unfair discrimination between individuals of the same
30 class and equal expectation of life in the rates or
31 assessments charged for any contract of life insurance or of
32 life annuity or in the dividends or other benefits payable
33 thereon, or in any other of the terms and conditions of such
34 contract. However, in determining the class, consideration
35 may be given to the nature of the risk, plan of insurance, the
36 actual or expected expense of conducting the business, or
37 any other relevant factor.

38 (B) Unfair discrimination between individuals of the same
39 class involving essentially the same hazards in the amount
40 of premium, policy fees, assessments, or rates charged or
41 made for any policy or contract of accident or health
42 insurance or in the benefits payable thereunder, or in any of

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1 the terms or conditions of such contract, or in any other
 2 manner whatever. However, in determining the class,
 3 consideration may be given to the nature of the risk, the
 4 plan of insurance, the actual or expected expense of
 5 conducting the business, or any other relevant factor.

6 (C) Excessive or inadequate charges for premiums, policy
 7 fees, assessments, or rates, or making or permitting any
 8 unfair discrimination between persons of the same class
 9 involving essentially the same hazards, in the amount of
 10 premiums, policy fees, assessments, or rates charged or
 11 made for:

- 12 (i) policies or contracts of reinsurance or joint
 13 reinsurance, or abstract and title insurance;
- 14 (ii) policies or contracts of insurance against loss or
 15 damage to aircraft, or against liability arising out of the
 16 ownership, maintenance, or use of any aircraft, or of
 17 vessels or craft, their cargoes, marine builders' risks,
 18 marine protection and indemnity, or other risks
 19 commonly insured under marine, as distinguished from
 20 inland marine, insurance; or
- 21 (iii) policies or contracts of any other kind or kinds of
 22 insurance whatsoever.

23 However, nothing contained in clause (C) shall be construed to
 24 apply to any of the kinds of insurance referred to in clauses (A)
 25 and (B) nor to reinsurance in relation to such kinds of insurance.
 26 Nothing in clause (A), (B), or (C) shall be construed as making
 27 or permitting any excessive, inadequate, or unfairly
 28 discriminatory charge or rate or any charge or rate determined by
 29 the department or commissioner to meet the requirements of any
 30 other insurance rate regulatory law of this state.

31 (8) Except as otherwise expressly provided by IC 27-1-47 or
 32 another law, knowingly permitting or offering to make or making
 33 any contract or policy of insurance of any kind or kinds
 34 whatsoever, including but not in limitation, life annuities, or
 35 agreement as to such contract or policy other than as plainly
 36 expressed in such contract or policy issued thereon, or paying or
 37 allowing, or giving or offering to pay, allow, or give, directly or
 38 indirectly, as inducement to such insurance, or annuity, any
 39 rebate of premiums payable on the contract, or any special favor
 40 or advantage in the dividends, savings, or other benefits thereon,
 41 or any valuable consideration or inducement whatever not
 42 specified in the contract or policy; or giving, or selling, or

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1 purchasing or offering to give, sell, or purchase as inducement
 2 to such insurance or annuity or in connection therewith, any
 3 stocks, bonds, or other securities of any insurance company or
 4 other corporation, association, limited liability company, or
 5 partnership, or any dividends, savings, or profits accrued
 6 thereon, or anything of value whatsoever not specified in the
 7 contract. Nothing in this subdivision and subdivision (7) shall be
 8 construed as including within the definition of discrimination or
 9 rebates any of the following practices:

10 (A) Paying bonuses to policyholders or otherwise abating
 11 their premiums in whole or in part out of surplus
 12 accumulated from nonparticipating insurance, so long as
 13 any such bonuses or abatement of premiums are fair and
 14 equitable to policyholders and for the best interests of the
 15 company and its policyholders.

16 (B) In the case of life insurance policies issued on the
 17 industrial debit plan, making allowance to policyholders
 18 who have continuously for a specified period made
 19 premium payments directly to an office of the insurer in an
 20 amount which fairly represents the saving in collection
 21 expense.

22 (C) Readjustment of the rate of premium for a group
 23 insurance policy based on the loss or expense experience
 24 thereunder, at the end of the first year or of any subsequent
 25 year of insurance thereunder, which may be made
 26 retroactive only for such policy year.

27 (D) Paying by an insurer or insurance producer thereof duly
 28 licensed as such under the laws of this state of money,
 29 commission, or brokerage, or giving or allowing by an
 30 insurer or such licensed insurance producer thereof
 31 anything of value, for or on account of the solicitation or
 32 negotiation of policies or other contracts of any kind or
 33 kinds, to a broker, an insurance producer, or a solicitor duly
 34 licensed under the laws of this state, but such broker,
 35 insurance producer, or solicitor receiving such
 36 consideration shall not pay, give, or allow credit for such
 37 consideration as received in whole or in part, directly or
 38 indirectly, to the insured by way of rebate.

39 (9) Requiring, as a condition precedent to loaning money upon
 40 the security of a mortgage upon real property, that the owner of
 41 the property to whom the money is to be loaned negotiate any
 42 policy of insurance covering such real property through a

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1 particular insurance producer or broker or brokers. However, this
2 subdivision shall not prevent the exercise by any lender of the
3 lender's right to approve or disapprove of the insurance company
4 selected by the borrower to underwrite the insurance.

5 (10) Entering into any contract, combination in the form of a
6 trust or otherwise, or conspiracy in restraint of commerce in the
7 business of insurance.

8 (11) Monopolizing or attempting to monopolize or combining or
9 conspiring with any other person or persons to monopolize any
10 part of commerce in the business of insurance. However,
11 participation as a member, director, or officer in the activities of
12 any nonprofit organization of insurance producers or other
13 workers in the insurance business shall not be interpreted, in
14 itself, to constitute a combination in restraint of trade or as
15 combining to create a monopoly as provided in this subdivision
16 and subdivision (10). The enumeration in this chapter of specific
17 unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts and
18 practices in the business of insurance is not exclusive or
19 restrictive or intended to limit the powers of the commissioner
20 or department or of any court of review under section 8 of this
21 chapter.

22 (12) Requiring as a condition precedent to the sale of real or
23 personal property under any contract of sale, conditional sales
24 contract, or other similar instrument or upon the security of a
25 chattel mortgage, that the buyer of such property negotiate any
26 policy of insurance covering such property through a particular
27 insurance company, insurance producer, or broker or brokers.
28 However, this subdivision shall not prevent the exercise by any
29 seller of such property or the one making a loan thereon of the
30 right to approve or disapprove of the insurance company selected
31 by the buyer to underwrite the insurance.

(13) Issuing, offering, or participating in a plan to issue or offer, any policy or certificate of insurance of any kind or character as an inducement to the purchase of any property, real, personal, or mixed, or services of any kind, where a charge to the insured is not made for and on account of such policy or certificate of insurance. However, this subdivision shall not apply to any of the following:

39 (A) Insurance issued to credit unions or members of credit
40 unions in connection with the purchase of shares in such
41 credit unions.

42 (B) Insurance employed as a means of guaranteeing the

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performance of goods and designed to benefit the purchasers or users of such goods.

(C) Title insurance.

(D) Insurance written in connection with an indebtedness and intended as a means of repaying such indebtedness in the event of the death or disability of the insured.

(E) Insurance provided by or through motorists service clubs or associations.

(F) Insurance that is provided to the purchaser or holder of an air transportation ticket and that:

(i) insures against death or nonfatal injury that occurs during the flight to which the ticket relates;

(ii) insures against personal injury or property damage that occurs during travel to or from the airport in a common carrier immediately before or after the flight;

(iii) insures against baggage loss during the flight to which the ticket relates; or

(iv) insures against a flight cancellation to which the ticket relates.

) Refusing, because of the for-profit status of a hospital or medical facility, to make payments otherwise required to be made under a contract or policy of insurance for charges incurred by an insured in such a for-profit hospital or other profit medical facility licensed by the Indiana department of health.

(D) Refusing to insure an individual, refusing to continue to insure an individual, limiting the amount, extent, or kind of coverage available to an individual, or charging an individual a different rate for the same coverage, solely because of that individual's blindness or partial blindness, except where such refusal, limitation, or rate differential is based on sound actuarial principles or is related to actual or reasonably anticipated experience.

3) Committing or performing, with such frequency as to indicate a general practice, unfair claim settlement practices (as defined in section 4.5 of this chapter).

) Between policy renewal dates, unilaterally canceling an individual's coverage under an individual or group health insurance policy solely because of the individual's medical or physical condition.

3) Using a policy form or rider that would permit a cancellation of coverage as described in subdivision (17).

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- (19) Violating IC 27-1-22-25, IC 27-1-22-26, or IC 27-1-22-26.1 concerning motor vehicle insurance rates.
- (20) Violating IC 27-8-21-2 concerning advertisements referring to interest rate guarantees.
- (21) Violating IC 27-8-24.3 concerning insurance and health plan coverage for victims of abuse.
- (22) Violating IC 27-8-26 concerning genetic screening or testing.
- (23) Violating IC 27-1-15.6-3(b) concerning licensure of insurance producers.
- (24) Violating IC 27-1-38 concerning depository institutions.
- (25) Violating IC 27-8-28-17(c) or IC 27-13-10-8(c) concerning the resolution of an appealed grievance decision.
- (26) Violating IC 27-8-5-2.5(e) through IC 27-8-5-2.5(j) (expired July 1, 2007, and removed) or IC 27-8-5-19.2 (expired July 1, 2007, and repealed).
- (27) Violating IC 27-2-21 concerning use of credit information.
- (28) Violating IC 27-4-9-3 concerning recommendations to consumers.
- (29) Engaging in dishonest or predatory insurance practices in marketing or sales of insurance to members of the United States Armed Forces as:
 - (A) described in the federal Military Personnel Financial Services Protection Act, P.L.109-290; or
 - (B) defined in rules adopted under subsection (b).
- (30) Violating IC 27-8-19.8-20.1 concerning stranger originated life insurance.
- (31) Violating IC 27-2-22 concerning retained asset accounts.
- (32) Violating IC 27-8-5-29 concerning health plans offered through a health benefit exchange (as defined in IC 27-19-2-8).
- (33) Violating a requirement of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148), as amended by the federal Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-152), that is enforceable by the state.
- (34) After June 30, 2015, violating IC 27-2-23 concerning unclaimed life insurance, annuity, or retained asset account benefits.
- (35) Willfully violating IC 27-1-12-46 concerning a life insurance policy or certificate described in IC 27-1-12-46(a).
- (36) Violating IC 27-1-37-7 concerning prohibiting the disclosure of health care service claims data.
- (37) Violating IC 27-4-10-10 concerning virtual claims

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1 payments.

2 (38) Violating IC 27-1-24.5 concerning pharmacy benefit
3 managers.

4 (39) Violating IC 27-7-17-16 or IC 27-7-17-17 concerning the
5 marketing of travel insurance policies.

6 (40) Violating IC 27-1-49 concerning individual prescription
7 drug rebates.

8 (41) Violating IC 27-1-50 concerning group prescription drug
9 rebates.

10 **(42) Violating IC 27-1-7-2.5 concerning a health carrier
11 contracting with a pharmacy benefit manager in which the
12 health carrier has an ownership interest.**

13 (b) Except with respect to federal insurance programs under
14 Subchapter III of Chapter 19 of Title 38 of the United States Code, the
15 commissioner may, consistent with the federal Military Personnel
16 Financial Services Protection Act (10 U.S.C. 992 note), adopt rules
17 under IC 4-22-2 to:

18 (1) define; and

19 (2) while the members are on a United States military
20 installation or elsewhere in Indiana, protect members of the
21 United States Armed Forces from;
22 dishonest or predatory insurance practices.

23 SECTION 29. IC 27-8-5-27.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
24 CODE AS A **NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS**
25 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 27.5. (a) This section applies to a
26 policy of accident and sickness insurance that provides coverage
27 for anesthesia services and is issued, amended, or renewed after
28 June 30, 2026.**

29 (b) **As used in this section, "anesthesia time" means the period**
30 **beginning when an anesthesia practitioner begins to prepare a**
31 **patient for anesthesia services in the operating room or an**
32 **equivalent area and ends when the anesthesia practitioner is no**
33 **longer furnishing anesthesia services to the patient. The term**
34 **includes blocks of time around an interruption in anesthesia time**
35 **provided that the anesthesia practitioner is furnishing continuous**
36 **anesthesia care within the time periods surrounding the**
37 **interruption.**

38 (c) **A policy of accident and sickness insurance may not impose**
39 **any of the following concerning the provision of anesthesia services**
40 **during a medical procedure:**

41 (1) **A time limit on the amount of covered anesthesia time for**
42 **any medical procedure.**



(2) Restrictions or exclusions of coverage or payment of anesthesia time.

3 SECTION 30. IC 27-13-7-15.2 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
4 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
5 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 15.2. (a) This section applies to an**
6 **individual or group contract that provides coverage for anesthesia**
7 **services and is issued, amended, or renewed after June 30, 2026.**

20 **(1) A time limit on the amount of covered anesthesia time for**
21 **any medical procedure.**

24 SECTION 31. IC 34-30-2.1-256.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
25 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
26 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 256.5. IC 16-42-26.7-9
27 (Concerning practitioners, eligible facilities, research institutions,
28 and other persons participating in providing neuroplastogen
29 treatment).

