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# SENATE BILL No. 176

Proposed Changes to January 21, 2026 printing by AM017603

## DIGEST OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Permitted zoning uses. Provides that the maintenance, repair, renovation, modernization, or expansion of buildings, structures, or facilities used in connection with a shooting range, including improvements to safety, security accessibility, or environmental controls, is a continuation of a permitted use and may not be treated by a local unit of government as: (1) an expansion of a nonconforming use; or (2) a basis to deny, delay, or condition approval of any permit that is otherwise required under applicable building codes or safety regulations. Provides that if an area is zoned for commercial use, a retail sporting goods store is a permitted use on each lot or parcel. Provides that if a property is zoned for commercial, industrial, or agricultural use, an indoor shooting range is permitted on any lot or parcel if certain conditions are satisfied. Provides that a retired judicial officer may possess and use a firearm in the same locations as a law enforcement officer who is authorized to carry a firearm. (Current law allows a judicial officer to possess and use a firearm in the same locations as a law enforcement officer who is authorized to carry a firearm.)

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 35-47-11.1-4~~[IC 14-22-31.5-5], AS
- 2 AMENDED BY P.L.~~175-2022~~[152-2011], SECTION 1<6>, IS
- 3 AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]:
- 4 Sec. ~~4. This chapter may not be construed to prevent any of the~~
- 5 ~~following:~~
- 6 ~~— (1) A law enforcement agency of a political subdivision from~~
- 7 ~~enacting and enforcing regulations pertaining to firearms,~~
- 8 ~~ammunition, or firearm accessories issued to or used by law~~
- 9 ~~enforcement officers in the course of their official duties;~~
- 10 ~~— (2) Subject to IC 34-28-7-2, an employer from regulating or~~

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1 ~~prohibiting the employees of the employer from carrying~~  
 2 ~~firearms and ammunition in the course of the employee's official~~  
 3 ~~duties:~~  
 4 ~~— (3) A court or administrative law judge from hearing and~~  
 5 ~~resolving any case or controversy or issuing any opinion or order~~  
 6 ~~on a matter within the jurisdiction of the court or judge.~~  
 7 ~~— (4) The enactment or enforcement of generally applicable zoning~~  
 8 ~~or business ordinances that apply to firearms businesses to the~~  
 9 ~~same degree as other similar businesses. However, a provision~~  
 10 ~~of an ordinance that is designed or enforced to effectively restrict~~  
 11 ~~or prohibit the sale, purchase, transfer, manufacture, or display~~  
 12 ~~of firearms, ammunition, or firearm accessories> [5. Except as~~  
 13 ~~specifically prohibited by this chapter and subject to~~  
 14 ~~IC 35-47-11.1 and IC 36-7-4.2, a local unit of government may~~  
 15 ~~regulate the location, use, operation, safety, and construction of~~  
 16 ~~a shooting range.~~

17 SECTION 2. IC 14-22-31.5-8 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA  
 18 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
 19 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 8. (a) The maintenance, repair,  
 20 renovation, modernization, or expansion of buildings, structures,  
 21 or facilities used in connection with a shooting range, including  
 22 improvements to safety, security accessibility, or environmental  
 23 controls, is a continuation of a permitted use and may not be  
 24 treated by a local unit of government as:

25 (1) an expansion of a nonconforming use; or  
 26 (2) a basis to deny, delay, or condition approval of any  
 27 permit] that is otherwise <lawful under the laws of this state  
 28 is void. A unit> [required under applicable building codes or  
 29 safety regulations.

30 (b) A local unit of government shall review and act upon any  
 31 application for a permit described in subsection (a) using the same  
 32 objective standards and procedures that apply to similarly situated  
 33 commercial, industrial, or agricultural properties, without regard  
 34 to the:

35 (1) type of goods or services offered by the shooting range;  
 36 or  
 37 (2) status of the property with respect to annexation.

38 (c) A local unit of government may not condition, explicitly or  
 39 implicitly, the approval, issuance, or timely processing of a permit  
 40 described in subsection (a) on the:

41 (1) owner's or operator's consent to annexation by a  
 42 municipality] (as defined in <IC 36-1-2-23) may not use the

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~~unit's planning and zoning powers under IC 36-7-4 to prohibit the sale of firearms within a prescribed distance of any other type of commercial property or of school property or other educational property.~~

~~(5) Subject to~~ [IC 36-1-2-11); or

(2) waiver of any right granted to the owner or operator under this chapter or any other law.

(d) Nothing in this section prohibits a local unit of government from enforcing generally applicable building, fire, or safety codes that are:

(1) neutral and of general applicability; and

(2) not adopted or applied for the purpose of restricting, hindering, or causing the closure of a shooting range.

SECTION 3.] IC 35-47-16-1, <the enactment or enforcement of a provision prohibiting or restricting the possession of a firearm in any building that contains the courtroom of a circuit, superior, city, town, or small claims court. However, if a portion of the building is occupied by a residential tenant or private business, any provision restricting or prohibiting the possession of a firearm does not apply to the portion of the building that is occupied by the residential tenant or private business, or to common areas of the building used by a residential tenant or private business.

~~(6) The enactment or enforcement of a provision prohibiting or restricting the intentional display of a firearm at a public meeting.~~

~~(7) The enactment or enforcement of a provision prohibiting or restricting the possession of a firearm in a public hospital corporation that contains a secure correctional health unit that is staffed by~~ [AS AMENDED BY P.L.186-2025, SECTION 247, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. A judicial officer or retired judicial officer: (1) may possess and use a firearm in the same locations that] a law enforcement officer <twenty-four (24) hours a day.

~~(8) The imposition of any restriction or condition placed on a person participating in:~~

~~(A) a community corrections program (IC 11-12-1);~~

~~(B) a forensic diversion program (IC 11-12-3.7); or~~

~~(C) a pretrial diversion program (IC 33-39-1).~~

~~(9) The enforcement or prosecution of the offense of criminal recklessness (IC 35-42-2-2) involving the use of a firearm.~~

~~(10) For an event occurring on property leased from~~ [who is authorized to carry a firearm under IC 5-2-1 may possess a

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1 firearm while the law enforcement officer is engaged in the  
2 execution of the law enforcement officer's official duties; and  
3 (2) may not be prohibited from possessing a firearm on land or  
4 in buildings and other structures owned or leased by:

5 (A) the state or any agency of state government; or  
6 (B) a political subdivision ~~or municipal corporation by~~  
7 the promoter or organizer of the event:

8 ~~— (A) the establishment, by the promoter or organizer, at the~~  
9 ~~promoter's or organizer's own discretion, of rules of conduct~~  
10 ~~or admission upon which attendance at or participation in~~  
11 ~~the event is conditioned; or~~

12 ~~— (B) the implementation or enforcement of the rules of~~  
13 ~~conduct or admission described in clause (A) by a political~~  
14 ~~subdivision or municipal corporation in connection with the~~  
15 ~~event:~~

16 ~~— (11) The enactment or enforcement of a provision prohibiting or~~  
17 ~~restricting the possession of a firearm in a hospital established~~  
18 ~~and operated under IC 16-22-2 or IC 16-23.~~

19 ~~— (12) A unit from using the unit's planning and zoning powers~~  
20 ~~under IC 36-7-4 to prohibit the sale of firearms within two~~  
21 ~~hundred (200) feet of a school by a person having a business that~~  
22 ~~did not sell firearms within two hundred (200) feet of a school~~  
23 ~~before April 1, 1994.~~

24 ~~— (13) A unit from adopting, applying, or enforcing a planning,~~  
25 ~~zoning, or land use ordinance or regulation established in~~  
26 ~~accordance with IC 36-7-4 that does not:~~

27 ~~— (A) impose more stringent regulations on the~~  
28 ~~establishment, use, or maintenance of a~~ [(as defined in  
29 IC 3-5-2.1-79).

30 SECTION 4. IC 35-47-16-2, AS ADDED BY P.L.147-2014,  
31 SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
32 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. A judicial officer **or retired judicial officer**  
33 who possesses a firearm as described in section 1 of this chapter has  
34 the same civil and criminal immunities and defenses concerning  
35 possession and use of the firearm that a law enforcement officer has  
36 when the law enforcement officer:

37 (1) possesses and uses a firearm; and  
38 (2) is engaged in the execution of the law enforcement officer's  
39 official duties.

40 SECTION 5. IC 36-7-4.2 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
41 AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
42 JULY 1, 2026]:

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1 Chapter 4.2. Permitted Uses; Indoor Shooting Ranges;  
 2 Sporting Goods Stores

3 Sec. 1. The definitions in IC 36-1-2 and IC 36-7-1 apply  
 4 throughout this chapter.

5 Sec. 2. (a) This chapter does not apply to property within:

6 (1) a historic area or historic zoning district created under:

7 (A) IC 36-7-11;

8 (B) IC 36-7-11.1;

9 (C) IC 36-7-11.2; or

10 (D) IC 36-7-11.3;

11 (2) a flood plain (as defined in IC 14-8-2-99); or

12 (3) subject to subsection (b), an area zoned for commercial  
 13 use that authorizes mixed use residential projects.

14 (b) Subsection (a)(3) does not include areas that contain a  
 15 shooting range (as defined in IC 14-22-31.5-3) that:

16 (1) was lawfully established and in operation before July 1,  
 17 2026;

18 (2) was located on property zoned for commercial use on or  
 19 before July 1, 2026; and

20 (3) seeks to develop an indoor] shooting range <than is  
 21 allowed under IC 14-22-31.5, this chapter, or another state  
 22 law; or

23 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ (B) require a person seeking a permit or approval~~  
 24 ~~related to:~~

25 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ (i) an improvement to real property for the purpose~~  
 26 ~~of establishing, using, and maintaining a new~~  
 27 ~~shooting range; or~~

28 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ (ii) a substantial change to an existing shooting~~  
 29 ~~range;~~

30 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ to comply with any conditions relating to the~~  
 31 ~~establishment, use, or maintenance > [after June 30, 2026,~~  
 32 ~~within the geographic boundaries] of the shooting range~~  
 33 ~~<that are more stringent than are allowed under~~  
 34 ~~IC 14-22-31.5, this chapter, or another state law.~~

35 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ (13) (14) Subject to IC 35-47-16-1, a unit (as defined in~~  
 36 ~~IC 36-1-2-23) from enacting or enforcing a provision~~  
 37 ~~prohibiting or restricting the possession of a firearm in a~~  
 38 ~~building owned or administered by the unit if:~~

39 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ (A) metal detection devices are located at each public~~  
 40 ~~entrance to the building;~~

41 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ (B) each public entrance to the building is staffed by at~~  
 42 ~~least one (1) law enforcement officer:~~

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- ~~1 (i) who has been adequately trained to conduct~~
- ~~2 inspections of persons entering the building by use~~
- ~~3 of metal detection devices and proper physical pat~~
- ~~4 down searches; and~~
- ~~5 (ii) when the building is open to the public; and~~
- ~~6 (C) each:~~
- ~~7 (i) individual who enters the building through the~~
- ~~8 public entrance when the building is open to the~~
- ~~9 public; and~~
- ~~10 (ii) bag, package, and other container carried by the~~
- ~~11 individual;~~
- ~~12 is inspected by a law enforcement officer described in~~
- ~~13 clause (B).~~

~~14 However, except as provided in subdivision (5) concerning a~~  
~~15 building that contains a courtroom~~ > as it existed on July 1,  
~~16 2026.~~

17 Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "indoor shooting range" means  
18 a fully enclosed facility designed and operated for the discharge of  
19 firearms, equipped with a bullet resistant backstop, ventilation  
20 system, and sound attenuation measures to prevent the escape of  
21 projectiles, excessive noise, or airborne contaminants.

22 Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "mixed use residential" means  
23 a development project that provides within a shared building or  
24 development area:

- 25 (1) residential uses, including multiple dwelling units; and
- 26 (2) nonresidential uses that:
  - 27 (A) comprise less than fifty percent (50%) of the total
  - 28 square footage of the development; and
  - 29 (B) are restricted to the first floor of any building
  - 30 consisting of at least two (2) stories.

31 Sec. 5. As used in this chapter, "permitted use" means a use  
32 that is approved by a unit in a zoning district without the  
33 requirement of:

- 34 (1) a public hearing;
- 35 (2) a variance, special exception, contingent use, or
- 36 conditional use; or
- 37 (3) other discretionary zoning action, other than a
- 38 determination that a site plan conforms with applicable
- 39 zoning regulations.

40 Sec. 6. As used in this chapter, "retail sporting goods store"  
41 means a commercial retail store that is primarily engaged in  
42 retailing new sporting goods classified under the North American

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1 Industry Classification Code 451110 (sporting goods stores),  
 2 including items such as:

- 3 (1) bicycles and bicycle parts;  
 4 (2) camping equipment;  
 5 (3) exercise and fitness equipment;  
 6 (4) athletic uniforms;  
 7 (5) specialty sports footwear;  
 8 (6) firearms; and  
 9 (7) other sporting goods, equipment, and accessories.

10 Sec. 7. As used in this chapter, "will-serve letter" means a  
 11 written document:

- 12 (1) issued by a water and sewer service provider to an owner  
 13 or developer of a project or dwelling; and  
 14 (2) that states the provider is able and willing to provide  
 15 water and sewer service to the project or dwelling subject to  
 16 the conditions, if any, set forth in the document.

17 Sec. 8. (a) Notwithstanding IC 36-7-4 or any other law, the  
 18 following are permitted uses:

- 19 (1) A retail sporting goods store within an area zoned for  
 20 commercial use under section 9 of this chapter.  
 21 (2) An indoor shooting range within an area zoned for  
 22 commercial, industrial, or agricultural use under section 10  
 23 of this chapter.

24 (b) Notwithstanding IC 36-7-4 or any other law], a unit may  
 25 not ~~prohibit or restrict the possession of a handgun under this~~  
 26 ~~subdivision in a building owned or administered by the unit if the~~  
 27 ~~person who possesses the handgun is not otherwise prohibited from~~  
 28 ~~carrying or possessing a handgun.]~~ [adopt or enforce restrictions  
 29 regarding indoor shooting ranges or retail sporting goods stores  
 30 that violate this chapter.

31 Sec. 9. (a) If a property is zoned for commercial use, a retail  
 32 sporting goods store is a permitted use on each lot or parcel.

33 (b) A unit may require:

- 34 (1) a will-serve letter for a retail sporting goods store under  
 35 subsection (a); and  
 36 (2) an application fee.

37 Sec. 10. (a) If a property is zoned for commercial, industrial,  
 38 or agricultural use, an indoor shooting range is permitted on any  
 39 lot or parcel if the following conditions are satisfied:

- 40 (1) The walls, ceilings, floors, and backstops must be  
 41 constructed with materials capable of containing all  
 42 projectiles fired within the facility.

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(2) Reasonable effort is made in the design, construction, and maintenance of the indoor shooting range to limit noise that could significantly impact adjacent properties.

(b) A unit may require:

(1) a will-serve letter for an indoor shooting range under subsection (a); and

(2) an application fee.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the scope of federal and state law governing firearm safety, environmental controls, and occupational health.

Sec. 11. A zoning ordinance adopted before July 1, 2026, is void to the extent the ordinance conflicts with this chapter. However, this chapter does not apply to or affect any application for a permit under IC 36-7-4 submitted to a unit before July 1, 2026.

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