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SENATE BILL No. 180

Proposed Changes to January 27, 2026 printing by AM018008

DIGEST OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Dental hygienists. Amends the educational requirements for dental hygienists. Adds language requiring that the dental hygienist applicant's transcript submitted for review by the board must include an English translation of the transcript if the transcript is not in English. Requires the dental hygienist applicant to submit a satisfactory credential verification assessment by the board or certain other organizations. Makes a technical correction.

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 16-27.5-5-5, AS ADDED BY P.L.143-2025,
- 2 SECTION 24, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
- 3 SEPTEMBER 1, 2025 (RETROACTIVE)]: Sec. 5. (a) A home health
- 4 aide competency evaluation program must:
- 5 (1) operate in accordance with 42 CFR 484.80; and
- 6 (2) address each topic described in section 4(a) of this chapter.
- 7 (b) ~~A home health aide competency evaluation program must~~
- 8 ~~include at least seventy-five (75) hours of training. At least sixteen (16)~~
- 9 ~~hours of classroom training must occur before supervised practical~~
- 10 ~~training.~~
- 11 SECTION 2. IC 16-41-14-17 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY
- 12 1, 2026]. Sec. 17. (a) ~~This section does not apply to a person who~~
- 13 ~~transfers for research purposes semen that contains antibodies for the~~
- 14 ~~human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).~~
- 15 (b) ~~A person who, for the purpose of artificial insemination,~~
- 16 ~~recklessly, knowingly, or intentionally donates, sells, or transfers semen~~
- 17 ~~that contains antibodies for the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)~~

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1 commits transferring contaminated semen, a Level 5 felony. The
2 offense is a Level 4 felony if the offense results in the transmission of
3 the virus to another person.

4 SECTION 3. IC 25-13-1-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.103-2011,
5 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
6 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. (a) Any person desiring to practice dental
7 hygiene in Indiana must procure from the board a license to practice
8 dental hygiene. To procure a license, the applicant must submit to the
9 board proof of graduation from an institution for educating dental
10 hygienists that is approved by the board described in section 6(2) of
11 this chapter and other credentials required by this chapter, together
12 with an application on forms prescribed and furnished by the board.
13 Each applicant must pay to the board an application fee set by the
14 board under section 5 of this chapter at the time the application is made
15 and must pass an examination administered by an entity approved by
16 the board. The board may establish under section 5 of this chapter
17 additional requirements as a prerequisite to taking an examination for
18 any applicant who has failed the examination two (2) or more times.
19 Application fees are not refundable.

20 (b) An applicant described under subsection (a) shall, at the
21 request of the board, make an appearance before the board.

22 SECTION 4. IC 25-13-1-5 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
23 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. (a) The board shall
24 enforce this chapter.

25 (b) The board may adopt rules consistent with this chapter and
26 with IC 25-14-1 necessary for the proper enforcement of this chapter,
27 the examination of dental hygienists, **the educational requirements**
28 **described in section 6(2) of this chapter**, and for the conduct of the
29 practice of dental hygiene.

30 (c) The board may utilize a dental hygienist education program's
31 accreditation by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the
32 American Dental Association as evidence that the program has met all
33 or part of the standards for dental hygienist education programs
34 established by the board.

35 SECTION 5. IC 25-13-1-6, AS AMENDED BY P.L.264-2013,
36 SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
37 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. An applicant:

38 (1) must not have been convicted of a crime that has a direct
39 bearing on the applicant's ability to practice competently;

40 (2) must be a graduate of a:

41 (A) school for dental hygienists that:

42 (A) (i) is accredited by the Commission on Dental

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- 1 Accreditation of the American Dental Association;
 2 ~~(B)~~ (ii) is recognized by the board; and
 3 ~~(C)~~ (iii) requires a formal course of training of not less
 4 than two (2) years of eight (8) months each; **or**
 5 **(B) dental college [or university] in a foreign country**
 6 **with a degree that is <substantially similar> [equal] to [**
 7 **at least] a doctorate [in Indiana] of:**
 8 (i) dental surgery; or
 9 (ii) dental medicine;
 10 **determined and approved by the board;**
 11 (3) must pass an examination administered by an entity approved
 12 by the board; **and**
 13 (4) may not take the examination described in subdivision (3)
 14 more than three (3) times; **and**
 15 **(5) if the applicant is a graduate of a dental college described**
 16 **in subdivision (2), must submit the [following to the board:**
 17 **(A) The] applicant's academic transcripts for review [by**
 18 **the board, including an English translation of the**
 19 **transcript if the transcript is not in English.**
 20 **(B) A satisfactory credential verification assessment by:**
 21 **(i) the board;**
 22 **(ii) an organization that is a member of the National**
 23 **Association of Credential Evaluation Services; or**
 24 **(iii) any other organization approved] by the board.**
 25 SECTION 6. IC 25-13-1-10.7, AS ADDED BY P.L.35-2020,
 26 SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 27 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10.7. (a) A dental hygienist or dental assistant (as
 28 defined in IC 25-14-1-1.5(4)) may administer nitrous oxide under the
 29 direct supervision of a licensed dentist if the dental hygienist or dental
 30 assistant has:
 31 (1) **either:**
 32 **(A) been employed in a dental practice for at least one (1)**
 33 **year; or**
 34 **(B) has graduated from a program:**
 35 **(i) accredited by the Commission on Dental**
 36 **Accreditation of the American Dental Association; or**
 37 **(ii) approved by the board;**
 38 (2) satisfactorily completed a three (3) hour didactic nitrous
 39 oxide administration course **that:**
 40 **(A) containing contains** curriculum on pharmacology,
 41 biochemistry, anatomy of nitrous oxide administration,
 42 emergency procedures, and the mechanics of operating a

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nitrous unit; **and**

(B) is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association **or approved by the board;** and

(3) demonstrated clinical competency on at least five (5) patients under the direct supervision of a licensed Indiana dentist whose license is in good standing.

(b) The licensed Indiana dentist supervising the clinical competency under subsection (a)(3) shall provide to the dental hygienist or dental assistant a signed affidavit certifying the competency.

(c) Upon receipt of the affidavit provided to a dental hygienist or dental assistant under subsection (b), the provider of an educational program or curriculum described in subsection (a)(2) shall issue a certificate of completion to the dental hygienist or dental assistant. The certificate of completion must be publicly displayed in the dental office of the dental hygienist or dental assistant.

(d) Before permitting a dental hygienist or dental assistant to administer nitrous oxide, the supervising dentist shall:

- (1) verify that the dental hygienist or dental assistant has completed the requirements of subsection (a);
- (2) determine the maximum percent-dosage of nitrous oxide to be administered to the patient; and
- (3) ensure that any administration or monitoring of nitrous oxide by dental hygienists or dental assistants is done in accordance with relevant guidelines and standards developed by the American Dental Association or the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.

SECTION 7. IC 25-14-1-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.264-2013, SECTION 6, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) A person desiring to begin the practice of dentistry in Indiana shall procure from the board a license to practice dentistry in Indiana. Except as provided in section 4.5 of this chapter, to procure the license, the applicant must submit to the board proof of graduation from a dental college recognized by the board. The board may recognize dental schools accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association, if the board is satisfied that the recognition is consistent with the board's requirements. Every applicant must pass an examination administered by an entity approved by the board and, **except as provided in subsection (b)**, may not take the examination more than three (3) times.

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1 (b) The board may establish additional requirements for an
2 applicant who has failed the examination at least three (3) times.
3 The applicant must complete ~~the~~ [any] additional requirements
4 before the applicant may take the examination again.

5 (b) (c) A fee paid under this article may not be refunded.

6 SECTION 8. IC 25-34.5-2-8 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
7 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 8. (a) Each applicant
8 for licensure as a respiratory care practitioner must present satisfactory
9 evidence that the applicant:

10 (1) does not have a conviction for:

11 (A) an act that would constitute a ground for disciplinary
12 sanction under IC 25-1-9; or

13 (B) a crime that has a direct bearing on the practitioner's
14 ability to practice competently;

15 (2) has not been the subject of a disciplinary action initiated by
16 the licensing or certification agency of another state or
17 jurisdiction on the grounds that the applicant was unable to
18 practice as a respiratory care practitioner without endangering
19 the public; and

20 (3) has either:

21 (A) before January 1, 2028, passed a respiratory care
22 practitioner licensing or certification examination approved
23 by the board; or

24 (B) after December 31, 2027, successfully completed
25 both portions of the registered respiratory therapist
26 examination, administered by the National Board for
27 Respiratory Care or its successor organization.

28 (b) Each applicant for licensure as a respiratory care practitioner
29 must submit proof to the committee of the applicant's:

30 (1) graduation from a school or program of respiratory care that
31 meets standards set by the board;

32 (2) completion of a United States military training program in
33 respiratory care; or

34 (3) completion of sufficient postsecondary education to be
35 credentialed by a national respiratory care practitioner
36 organization approved by the committee.

37 (c) At the time of making application, each applicant must pay a
38 fee determined by the board after consideration of a recommendation
39 of the committee.

40 SECTION 9. IC 25-34.5-2-9, AS AMENDED BY P.L.177-2015,
41 SECTION 75, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
42 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 9. (a) Except as provided in section 11 of this

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1 chapter, the committee shall issue a license to each applicant who
 2 ~~(1) successfully passes the examination provided in section 12~~
 3 ~~of this chapter; and~~
 4 ~~(2) meets the requirements of section 8 of this chapter.~~
 5 (b) Subject to IC 25-1-2-6(e), a license issued under this section
 6 expires on the last day of the regular renewal cycle established under
 7 IC 25-1-5-4.
 8 SECTION 10. IC 25-34.5-2-10.1, AS AMENDED BY
 9 P.L.149-2022, SECTION 12, IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 10 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10.1. (a) The
 11 committee shall issue a temporary permit to a person to practice
 12 respiratory care or to profess to be a respiratory care practitioner, not
 13 more than thirty (30) days after the application is filed and completed,
 14 if the person pays a fee and:
 15 (1) has:
 16 (A) a valid license or certificate to practice from another
 17 state; and
 18 (B) applied for a license from the committee;
 19 (2) is practicing in a state that does not license or certify
 20 respiratory care practitioners but is credentialed by a national
 21 respiratory care practitioner association approved by the
 22 committee, and the person has applied for a license from the
 23 committee; or
 24 (3) ~~has:~~
 25 (A) ~~been approved by the committee to take the next~~
 26 ~~examination; and~~
 27 (B) ~~graduated from a school or program approved by the~~
 28 ~~committee. is qualified to take the examination by being~~
 29 ~~a graduate of a school or program of respiratory care~~
 30 ~~that meets standards set by the board.~~
 31 (b) A temporary permit expires the earlier of:
 32 (1) the date the person holding the permit is issued a license
 33 under this article; or
 34 (2) the date the committee disapproves the person's license
 35 application.
 36 (c) The committee may renew a temporary permit if the person
 37 holding the permit was scheduled to take the ~~next~~ examination and:
 38 (1) did not take the examination; and
 39 (2) shows good cause for not taking the examination.
 40 (d) A permit renewed under subsection (c) expires on the date the
 41 person holding the permit receives the results from the ~~next~~
 42 examination given after the permit was issued.

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1 SECTION 11. IC 25-34.5-2-12 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE
2 JULY 1, 2026]. Sec. 12: (a) Examinations of applicants for licensure
3 under this article shall be held at least semiannually on dates set by the
4 board:

5 (b) An examination under this section must include a written
6 examination that tests the following:

7 (1) The applicant's knowledge of the basic and clinical sciences
8 as they relate to the practice of respiratory care:

9 (2) Other subjects that the committee considers useful to test an
10 applicant's fitness to practice respiratory care:

11 (c) An otherwise qualified applicant who fails an examination and
12 is refused licensure may take another scheduled examination upon
13 payment of an additional fee set by the board under rules adopted under
14 section 7 of this chapter:

15 SECTION 12. IC 25-34.5-2-14, AS AMENDED BY
16 P.L.152-2024, SECTION 8, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
17 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 14. (a) The committee shall issue
18 a student permit to an individual if the individual does the following:

19 (1) Submits the appropriate application to the committee.

20 (2) Pays the fee established by the board.

21 (3) Submits written proof to the committee that the individual is
22 a student in good standing in a respiratory care school or
23 program that: ~~has been:~~

24 (A) ~~has been~~ approved by the committee for purposes of
25 section 8(b)(1) of this chapter;

26 (B) ~~approved by the committee for purposes of section~~
27 ~~10.1(a)(3)(B) is described in section 10.1(a)(3) of this~~
28 chapter; or

29 (C) ~~has been~~ otherwise approved by the committee.

30 (4) Submits satisfactory evidence that the individual:

31 (A) does not have a conviction described in section 8(a)(1)
32 of this chapter; and

33 (B) has not been the subject of a disciplinary action
34 described in section 8(a)(2) of this chapter.

35 (b) The committee shall issue a student permit as soon as it is
36 reasonably practicable after an individual fulfills the requirements of
37 subsection (a).

38 (c) An individual who holds a student permit may only perform
39 respiratory care procedures that have been part of a course:

40 (1) the individual has successfully completed in the respiratory
41 care program designated under subsection (a)(3); and

42 (2) for which the successful completion has been documented

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1 and that is available upon request to the committee.
 2 (d) The committee may expand the list of respiratory care
 3 procedures that an individual may perform under the individual's
 4 student permit to include additional respiratory care procedures that
 5 have been part of a course:
 6 (1) that the individual has successfully completed in the
 7 respiratory care program designated under subsection (a)(3); and
 8 (2) for which the individual's successful completion has been
 9 documented.
 10 Upon request by the committee, the individual shall provide
 11 documentation of the successful completion of a course described in
 12 this subsection.
 13 (e) The procedures permitted under subsections (c) and (d) may be
 14 performed only:
 15 (1) on patients who are not critical care patients; and
 16 (2) under the proximate supervision of a practitioner.
 17 (f) A holder of a student permit shall meet in person at least one
 18 (1) time each working day with the permit holder's supervising
 19 practitioner or a designated respiratory care practitioner to review the
 20 permit holder's clinical activities. The supervising practitioner or a
 21 designated respiratory care practitioner shall review and countersign
 22 the entries that the permit holder makes in a patient's medical record
 23 not more than seven (7) calendar days after the permit holder makes the
 24 entries.
 25 (g) A supervising practitioner may not supervise at one (1) time
 26 more than three (3) holders of student permits issued under this section.
 27 (h) A student permit expires on the earliest of the following:
 28 (1) The date the permit holder is issued a license under this
 29 article.
 30 (2) The date the committee disapproves the permit holder's
 31 application for a license under this article.
 32 (3) The date the permit holder ceases to be a student in good
 33 standing in a respiratory care program approved by the
 34 committee. The graduation of a student permit holder from a
 35 respiratory care program approved by the committee does not
 36 cause the student permit to expire under this subdivision.
 37 (4) Sixty (60) days after the date that the permit holder graduates
 38 from a respiratory care program approved by the committee.
 39 (5) The date that the permit holder is notified that the permit
 40 holder has failed the licensure examination.
 41 (6) Two (2) years after the date of issuance.
 42 SECTION 13. IC 35-52-16-58 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE

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1 JULY 1, 2026]. Sec. 58. IC ~~16-41-14-17~~ defines a crime concerning
2 communicable diseases:

3 SECTION 14. IC 36-8-4-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.66-2020,
4 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
5 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. **(a) The following definitions apply
6 throughout this section:**

7 **(1) "Firefighter" means a current or former firefighter.**

8 **(2) "Police officer" means a current or former police officer.**

9 ~~(a)~~ **(b)** A city shall pay for the care of a police officer or firefighter
10 who suffers an injury while performing the person's duty or while the
11 person is on duty or who contracts illness caused by the performance
12 of the person's duty, including an injury or illness that results in a
13 disability or death presumed incurred in the line of duty under
14 IC 5-10-13. This care includes:

- 15 (1) medical and surgical care;
- 16 (2) medicines and laboratory, curative, and palliative agents and
17 means;
- 18 (3) X-ray, diagnostic, and therapeutic service, including during
19 the recovery period; and
- 20 (4) hospital and special nursing care if the physician or surgeon
21 in charge considers it necessary for proper recovery.

22 ~~(b)~~ **(c)** Expenditures required by subsection ~~(a)~~ **(b)** shall be paid
23 from the general fund of the city.

24 ~~(c)~~ **(d)** A city that has paid for the care of a police officer or
25 firefighter under subsection ~~(a)~~ **(b)** has a cause of action for
26 reimbursement of the amount paid under subsection ~~(a)~~ **(b)** against any
27 third party against whom the police officer or firefighter has a cause of
28 action for an injury sustained because of or an illness caused by the
29 third party. The city's cause of action under this subsection is in
30 addition to, and not in lieu of, the cause of action of the police officer
31 or firefighter against the third party.

32 **(e) The medical benefits under this section are independent
33 and distinct from any medical benefits that are available under
34 IC 22-3. A police officer or firefighter may recover medical
35 benefits under this section without first pursuing a claim for
36 medical benefits under IC 22-3. If a police officer or firefighter
37 pursues a claim for medical benefits under IC 22-3 and the claim
38 is withdrawn or denied, the police officer or firefighter is not
39 precluded from recovering medical benefits under this section.**

40 SECTION 15. IC 36-8-4.3-2 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
41 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. **(a) The following
42 definitions apply throughout this section:**

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- 1 **(1) "Firefighter" means a current or former full-time, paid**
- 2 **firefighter.**
- 3 **(2) "Police officer" means a current or former full-time, paid**
- 4 **police officer.**
- 5 ~~(a)~~ **(b)** A special service district shall pay for the care of:
- 6 (1) a ~~full-time, paid~~ police officer who:
- 7 (A) suffers an injury; or
- 8 (B) contracts an illness;
- 9 during the performance of the **police** officer's duty; or
- 10 (2) a ~~full-time, paid~~ firefighter who:
- 11 (A) suffers an injury; or
- 12 (B) contracts an illness;
- 13 during the performance of the firefighter's duty.
- 14 ~~(b)~~ **(c)** The special service district shall pay for the following
- 15 expenses incurred by a police officer or firefighter described in
- 16 subsection ~~(a)~~: **(b)**:
- 17 (1) Medical and surgical care.
- 18 (2) Medicines and laboratory, curative, and palliative agents and
- 19 means.
- 20 (3) X-ray, diagnostic, and therapeutic service, including during
- 21 the recovery period.
- 22 (4) Hospital and special nursing care if the physician or surgeon
- 23 in charge considers it necessary for proper recovery.
- 24 ~~(c)~~ **(d)** Expenditures required by subsection ~~(a)~~ **(b) or (c)** shall be
- 25 paid from the general fund of the special service district.
- 26 ~~(d)~~ **(e)** A special service district that has paid for the care of a
- 27 police officer or firefighter under subsection ~~(a)~~ **(b) or (c)** has a cause
- 28 of action for reimbursement of the amount paid under subsection ~~(a)~~
- 29 **(b) or (c)** against any third party against whom the police officer or
- 30 firefighter has a cause of action for an injury sustained because of, or
- 31 an illness caused by, the third party. The special service district's cause
- 32 of action under this subsection is in addition to, and not in lieu of, the
- 33 cause of action of the police officer or firefighter against the third
- 34 party.
- 35 **(f) The medical benefits under this section are independent and**
- 36 **distinct from any medical benefits that are available under IC 22-3.**
- 37 **A police officer or firefighter may recover medical benefits under**
- 38 **this section without first pursuing a claim for medical benefits**
- 39 **under IC 22-3. If the police officer or firefighter pursues a claim**
- 40 **for medical benefits under IC 22-3 and the claim is withdrawn or**
- 41 **denied, the police officer or firefighter is not precluded from**
- 42 **recovering medical benefits under this section.**

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1 SECTION 16. IC 36-8-4.5-10 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
2 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
3 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10. (a) A town shall pay for the
4 care of a current or retired full-time paid member of a town fire
5 department who suffers an injury while performing the person's
6 duty or while the person is on duty or who contracts illness caused
7 by the performance of the person's duty, including an injury or
8 illness that results in a disability or death presumed incurred in the
9 line of duty under IC 5-10-13. This care includes:

- 10 (1) medical and surgical care;
- 11 (2) medicines and laboratory, curative, and palliative agents
- 12 and means;
- 13 (3) ~~an~~ x-ray, diagnostic, and therapeutic service, including
- 14 during the recovery period; and
- 15 (4) hospital and special nursing care if the physician or
- 16 surgeon in charge considers it necessary for proper recovery.

17 (b) Expenditures required by subsection (a) shall be paid from
18 the general fund of the town.

19 (c) A town that has paid for the care of a member of a town
20 fire department under subsection (a) has a cause of action for
21 reimbursement of the amount paid under subsection (a) against
22 any third party against whom the member of the town fire
23 department has a cause of action for an injury sustained because
24 of or an illness caused by the third party. The town's cause of
25 action under this subsection is in addition to, and not in lieu of, the
26 cause of action of the member of the town fire department against
27 the third party.

28 (d) The medical benefits under this section are independent
29 and distinct from any medical benefits that are available under
30 IC 22-3. A current or retired full-time paid member of a town fire
31 department may recover benefits under this section without first
32 pursuing a claim for medical benefits under IC 22-3. If a current
33 or retired full-time paid member of a town fire department
34 pursues a claim for medical benefits under IC 22-3 and the claim
35 is withdrawn or denied, the current or retired full-time paid
36 member of the town fire department is not precluded from
37 recovering medical benefits under this section.

38 SECTION 17. IC 36-8-9-8 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
39 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 8. (a) As used in this
40 section, "police officer" means a current or former full-time, paid
41 police officer.

42 (a) (b) A town shall pay for the care of a ~~full-time, paid~~ police

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1 officer who:
 2 (1) suffers an injury; or
 3 (2) contracts an illness;
 4 during the performance of the **police** officer's duty.
 5 ~~(b)~~ (c) The town shall pay for the following expenses incurred by
 6 a police officer described in subsection ~~(a)~~: **(b)**:
 7 (1) Medical and surgical care.
 8 (2) Medicines and laboratory, curative, and palliative agents and
 9 means.
 10 (3) X-ray, diagnostic, and therapeutic service, including during
 11 the recovery period.
 12 (4) Hospital and special nursing care if the physician or surgeon
 13 in charge considers it necessary for proper recovery.
 14 ~~(c)~~ (d) Expenditures required by subsection ~~(a)~~ **(b) or (c)** shall be
 15 paid from the general fund of the town.
 16 ~~(d)~~ (e) A town that has paid for the care of a police officer under
 17 subsection ~~(a)~~ **(b) or (c)** has a cause of action for reimbursement of the
 18 amount paid under subsection ~~(a)~~ **(b) or (c)** against any third party
 19 against whom the police officer has a cause of action for an injury
 20 sustained because of, or an illness caused by, the third party. The
 21 town's cause of action under this subsection is in addition to, and not
 22 in lieu of, the cause of action of the police officer against the third
 23 party.
 24 **(f) The medical benefits under this section are independent and**
 25 **distinct from any medical benefits that are available under IC 22-3.**
 26 **A police officer may recover medical benefits under this section**
 27 **without first pursuing a claim for medical benefits under IC 22-3.**
 28 **If the police officer pursues a claim for medical benefits under**
 29 **IC 22-3 and the claim is withdrawn or denied, the police officer is**
 30 **not precluded from recovering medical benefits under this section.**
 31 SECTION 18. IC 36-8-11-27 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 32 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 27. **(a) As used in this**
 33 **section, "firefighter" means a current or former full-time, paid**
 34 **firefighter.**
 35 ~~(a)~~ **(b)** A fire protection district shall pay for the care of a
 36 ~~full-time, paid firefighter who: suffers:~~
 37 (1) **suffers** an injury; or
 38 (2) contracts an illness;
 39 during the performance of the firefighter's duties.
 40 ~~(b)~~ (c) The fire protection district shall pay for the following
 41 expenses incurred by a firefighter described in subsection ~~(a)~~: **(b)**:
 42 (1) Medical and surgical care.

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- 1 (2) Medicines and laboratory, curative, and palliative agents and
- 2 means.
- 3 (3) X-ray, diagnostic, and therapeutic service, including service
- 4 provided during the recovery period.
- 5 (4) Hospital and special nursing care if the physician or surgeon
- 6 in charge considers it necessary for proper recovery.
- 7 ~~(c)~~ (d) Expenditures required by subsection ~~(a)~~ (b) or (c) shall be
- 8 paid from the fund used by the fire protection district for payment of
- 9 the costs attributable to providing fire protection services in the fire
- 10 protection district.
- 11 ~~(d)~~ (e) A fire protection district that has paid for the care of a
- 12 firefighter under subsection ~~(a)~~ (b) or (c) has a cause of action for
- 13 reimbursement of the amount paid under subsection ~~(a)~~ (b) or (c) ~~and~~ [
- 14] against any third party against whom the firefighter has a cause of
- 15 action for:
- 16 (1) an injury sustained because of; or
- 17 (2) an illness caused by;
- 18 the third party. The fire protection district's cause of action under this
- 19 subsection is in addition to, and not instead of, the cause of action of
- 20 the firefighter against the third party.
- 21 (f) **The medical benefits under this section are independent and**
- 22 **distinct from any medical benefits that are available under IC 22-3.**
- 23 **A firefighter may recover medical benefits under this section**
- 24 **without first pursuing a claim for medical benefits under IC 22-3.**
- 25 **If the firefighter pursues a claim for medical benefits under**
- 26 **IC 22-3 and the claim is withdrawn or denied, the firefighter is not**
- 27 **precluded from recovering medical benefits under this section.**
- 28 SECTION 19. IC 36-8-13-9, AS AMENDED BY P.L.236-2023,
- 29 SECTION 207, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
- 30 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 9. (a) **As used in this section,**
- 31 **"firefighter" means a current or former full-time, paid firefighter.**
- 32 ~~(a)~~ (b) A township shall pay for the care of a ~~full-time, paid~~
- 33 firefighter who: ~~suffers~~:
- 34 (1) ~~suffers~~ an injury; or
- 35 (2) contracts an illness;
- 36 during the performance of the firefighter's duty.
- 37 ~~(b)~~ (c) The township shall pay for the following expenses incurred
- 38 by a firefighter described in subsection ~~(a)~~: (b):
- 39 (1) Medical and surgical care.
- 40 (2) Medicines and laboratory, curative, and palliative agents and
- 41 means.
- 42 (3) X-ray, diagnostic, and therapeutic service, including during

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1 the recovery period.
 2 (4) Hospital and special nursing care if the physician or surgeon
 3 in charge considers it necessary for proper recovery.
 4 ~~(e)~~ **(d)** Expenditures required by subsection ~~(a)~~ **(b) or (c)** shall be
 5 paid from the township firefighting and emergency services fund
 6 established by section 4(a)(1) of this chapter or the township
 7 firefighting fund established ~~in~~ **by** section 4(a)(2)(A) of this chapter, as
 8 applicable.
 9 ~~(d)~~ **(e)** A township that has paid for the care of a firefighter under
 10 subsection ~~(a)~~ **(b) or (c)** has a cause of action for reimbursement of the
 11 amount paid under subsection ~~(a)~~ **(b) or (c)** against any third party
 12 against whom the firefighter has a cause of action for an injury
 13 sustained because of, or an illness caused by, the third party. The
 14 township's cause of action under this subsection is in addition to, and
 15 not in lieu of, the cause of action of the firefighter against the third
 16 party.
 17 **(f) The medical benefits under this section are independent and**
 18 **distinct from any medical benefits that are available under IC 22-3.**
 19 **A firefighter may recover medical benefits under this section**
 20 **without first pursuing a claim for medical benefits under IC 22-3.**
 21 **If the firefighter pursues a claim for medical benefits under**
 22 **IC 22-3 and the claim is withdrawn or denied, the firefighter is not**
 23 **precluded from recovering medical benefits under this section.**
 24 SECTION 20. IC 36-8-19-14 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 25 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 14. **(a) As used in this**
 26 **section, "firefighter" means a current or former full-time, paid**
 27 **firefighter.**
 28 ~~(a)~~ **(b)** A provider unit shall pay for the care of a ~~full-time, paid~~
 29 firefighter who:
 30 (1) suffers an injury; or
 31 (2) contracts an illness;
 32 during the performance of the firefighter's duty.
 33 ~~(b)~~ **(c)** The provider unit shall pay for the following expenses
 34 incurred by a firefighter described in subsection ~~(a)~~: **(b)**:
 35 (1) Medical and surgical care.
 36 (2) Medicines and laboratory, curative, and palliative agents and
 37 means.
 38 (3) X-ray, diagnostic, and therapeutic service, including during
 39 the recovery period.
 40 (4) Hospital and special nursing care if the physician or surgeon
 41 in charge considers it necessary for proper recovery.
 42 ~~(e)~~ **(d)** Expenditures required by subsection ~~(a)~~ **(b) or (c)** shall be

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1 paid from the fund used by the provider unit for payment of the costs
 2 attributable to providing fire protection services in the provider unit.
 3 ~~(d)~~ (e) A provider unit that has paid for the care of a firefighter
 4 under subsection ~~(a)~~ (b) or (c) has a cause of action for reimbursement
 5 of the amount paid under subsection ~~(a)~~ (b) or (c) against any third
 6 party against whom the firefighter has a cause of action for an injury
 7 sustained because of, or an illness caused by, the third party. The
 8 provider unit's cause of action under this subsection is in addition to,
 9 and not in lieu of, the cause of action of the firefighter against the third
 10 party.

11 (f) **The medical benefits under this section are independent and**
 12 **distinct from any medical benefits that are available under IC 22-3.**
 13 **A firefighter may recover medical benefits under this section**
 14 **without first pursuing a claim for medical benefits under IC 22-3.**
 15 **If the firefighter pursues a claim for medical benefits under**
 16 **IC 22-3 and the claim is withdrawn or denied, the firefighter is not**
 17 **precluded from recovering medical benefits under this section.**

18 SECTION 21. [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE] (a) **The**
 19 **legislative council is urged to assign to an appropriate study**
 20 **committee the task of studying fraud in the health care system,**
 21 **including Medicaid and other local or state health programs.**

22 (b) **This SECTION expires July 1, 2028.**

23 SECTION 22. **An emergency is declared for this act.**

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