
SENATE BILL No. 204

AM020407 has been incorporated into January 23, 2026 printing.

Synopsis: Various education matters.

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SB 204—LS 6843/DI 143



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January 23, 2026

Second Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2026)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in *this style type*, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

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SENATE BILL No. 204

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

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

1 SECTION 1. IC 20-28-5-16, AS AMENDED BY P.L.205-2013,
2 SECTION 253, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
3 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 16. (a) The department shall
4 establish a program under which an individual may obtain a license
5 that allows the individual to teach in a charter school if the individual:
6 (1) wishes to teach in a charter school in Indiana; and
7 (2) satisfies either of the following requirements:
8 (A) The individual holds at least a bachelor's degree with a
9 grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 point scale from
10 an accredited postsecondary institution in the content or a
11 related area in which the individual wishes to teach.
12 (B) The individual holds at least a bachelor's degree and
13 proof that the individual has passed the state approved
14 content area examination in the subject area that the
15 individual intends to teach.

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1 (b) The program established under subsection (a) must allow the
 2 individual to teach in a charter school while the individual is in the
 3 process of obtaining the license.

4 (c) **Subject to subsection (d), if an individual described in**
 5 **subsection (a) demonstrates effectiveness as a teacher, as**
 6 **determined by the applicable charter school leader, for not less**
 7 **than two (2) consecutive years, the individual shall be eligible to**
 8 **obtain an initial practitioner professional educator license for the**
 9 **content area in which the individual has taught.**

10 (d) **An individual eligible to obtain an initial practitioner**
 11 **professional educator license under subsection (c) must:**

12 (1) **demonstrate proficiency through a written examination,**
 13 **as described in section 12(b)(2) of this chapter, in the**
 14 **knowledge area in which the individual has taught and is**
 15 **seeking an initial practitioner professional educator license;**
 16 **and**

17 (2) **complete the training described in section 12.3 of this**
 18 **chapter.**

19 SECTION 2. IC 20-28-5-16.5, AS ADDED BY P.L.194-2025,
 20 SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 21 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 16.5. (a) **Except as provided in subsection (c),**
 22 the department shall grant an initial practitioner license to an individual
 23 who meets the following requirements:

24 (1) The individual holds a bachelor's degree with a grade point
 25 average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale from an accredited
 26 postsecondary educational institution. ~~with a major in any~~
 27 ~~combination of the following:~~

28 (A) ~~Science;~~

29 (B) ~~Technology;~~

30 (C) ~~Engineering;~~

31 (D) ~~Mathematics.~~

32 (2) The individual successfully completes a total of at least nine
 33 (9) academic credits in courses that include instruction on the
 34 following:

35 (A) High impact practices in:

36 (i) lesson planning;

37 (ii) instructional design;

38 (iii) instructional activities;

39 (iv) integrating learning modalities; and

40 (v) **if applicable**, developing laboratory experiments.

41 (B) The use of:

42 (i) digital media;

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- 1 (ii) learning management software; and
 2 (iii) technology to maximize learning.
- 3 (C) Teaching:
 4 (i) inductive and deductive reasoning;
 5 (ii) metacognition;
 6 (iii) problem framing;
 7 (iv) interpreting results; and
 8 (v) data based decision making.
- 9 (D) Best practices to evaluate student learning through:
 10 (i) diagnostic assessment;
 11 (ii) direct and indirect assessment; and
 12 (iii) formative and summative assessment.
- 13 (E) Creating feedback loops.
 14 (F) Fostering engagement and using peer to peer learning
 15 and other small group strategies.
 16 (G) Providing constructive feedback and preventing
 17 disruptive behavior.
 18 (H) Early intervention strategies and professional standards.
 19 (I) Teaching students with disabilities.
- 20 (3) The individual demonstrates proficiency through a written
 21 examination in the knowledge of the areas in which the
 22 individual is required to have a license to teach, as described in
 23 section 12(b)(2) of this chapter.
- 24 (4) The individual has completed the training described in
 25 section 12.3 of this chapter.
- 26 (5) The individual participates in one (1) or more of the
 27 following, as determined by the department:
 28 (A) Job shadowing.
 29 (B) Field experiences.
 30 (C) Teaching cooperatives.
 31 (D) Full-term student teaching.
- 32 (b) An individual who receives an initial practitioner license under
 33 this section:
 34 (1) may only teach in any combination of grades 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10,
 35 11, or 12, as determined by the department;
 36 (2) shall be treated in the same manner as an individual who
 37 receives an initial practitioner license after completing a
 38 traditional teacher preparation program; and
 39 (3) must be treated in the same manner as a traditional teacher
 40 preparation program graduate during the transition from an
 41 initial practitioner license to a practitioner license.
- 42 (c) **The department may not grant an initial practitioner**

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1 **license under this section to teach special education.**

2 ~~(c)~~ (d) The state board may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to
3 administer this section.

4 SECTION 3. IC 20-28-9-1.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.214-2025,
5 SECTION 123, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
6 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2027]: Sec. 1.5. (a) This subsection governs
7 salary increases for a teacher employed by a school corporation.
8 Compensation attributable to additional degrees or graduate credits
9 earned before the effective date of a local compensation plan created
10 under this chapter before July 1, 2015, shall continue for school years
11 beginning after June 30, 2015. Compensation attributable to additional
12 degrees for which a teacher has started course work before July 1,
13 2011, and completed course work before September 2, 2014, shall also
14 continue for school years beginning after June 30, 2015. For school
15 years beginning after June 30, 2022, a school corporation may provide
16 a supplemental payment to a teacher in excess of the salary specified
17 in the school corporation's compensation plan when doing so is in the
18 best interest of students. A supplement provided under this subsection
19 is not subject to collective bargaining and, under IC 20-29-6-3(d), a
20 school corporation may exclude, for this purpose, a portion of the
21 revenue available for bargaining from education fund revenues
22 included in IC 20-29-2-6. Such a supplement is in addition to any
23 increase permitted under subsection (b).

24 (b) Subject to subsection (e), increases or increments in a local
25 salary range must be based upon a combination of the following
26 factors:

27 (1) A combination of the following factors taken together may
28 account for not more than fifty percent (50%) of the calculation
29 used to determine a teacher's increase or increment:

30 (A) The number of years of a teacher's experience.

31 (B) The possession of either:

32 (i) additional content area degrees beyond the
33 requirements for employment; or

34 (ii) additional content area degrees and credit hours
35 beyond the requirements for employment, if required
36 under an agreement bargained under IC 20-29.

37 (2) The results of an evaluation conducted under IC 20-28-11.5.

38 (3) The assignment of instructional leadership roles, including
39 the responsibility for conducting evaluations under
40 IC 20-28-11.5.

41 (4) The academic needs of students in the school corporation,
42 including employment in a high need area such as those

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1 identified under IC 20-29-3-15(b)(27). This factor may not:

2 (A) account for less than ten percent (10%) of the
3 calculation used to determine a teacher's increase or
4 increment;

5 (B) apply to all eligible teachers in a bargaining unit
6 uniformly; or

7 (C) be based on any other factor under this subsection.

8 (c) To provide greater flexibility and options, a school corporation
9 may further differentiate the amount of salary increases or increments
10 determined for teachers. A school corporation shall base a
11 differentiated amount under this subsection on reasons the school
12 corporation determines are appropriate, which may include the:

13 (1) subject or subjects taught by a given teacher;

14 (2) importance of retaining a given teacher at the school
15 corporation;

16 (3) need to attract an individual with specific qualifications to
17 fill a teaching vacancy; and

18 (4) offering of a new program or class.

19 (d) A school corporation may provide differentiated increases or
20 increments under subsection (b), and in excess of the percentage
21 specified in subsection (b)(1), in order to:

22 (1) reduce the gap between the school corporation's minimum
23 teacher salary and the average of the school corporation's
24 minimum and maximum teacher salaries; or

25 (2) allow teachers currently employed by the school corporation
26 to receive a salary adjusted in comparison to starting base
27 salaries of new teachers.

28 (e) A school corporation shall differentiate the amount of salary
29 increases or increments for teachers who possess a required literacy
30 endorsement under IC 20-28-5-19.7.

31 (f) The Indiana education employment relations board established
32 in IC 20-29-3-1 shall publish a model compensation plan with a model
33 salary range that a school corporation may adopt.

34 (g) Each school corporation shall submit its local compensation
35 plan to the Indiana education employment relations board. A local
36 compensation plan must specify the range for teacher salaries. The
37 Indiana education employment relations board shall publish the local
38 compensation plans on the Indiana education employment relations
39 board's website.

40 (h) The Indiana education employment relations board shall
41 review a compensation plan for compliance with this section as part of
42 its review under IC 20-29-6-6.1. The Indiana education employment

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1 relations board has jurisdiction to determine compliance of a
2 compensation plan submitted under this section.

3 (i) This chapter may not be construed to require or allow a school
4 corporation to decrease the salary of any teacher below the salary the
5 teacher was earning on or before July 1, 2015, if that decrease would
6 be made solely to conform to the new compensation plan.

7 (j) After June 30, 2011, all rights, duties, or obligations established
8 under IC 20-28-9-1 before its repeal are considered rights, duties, or
9 obligations under this section.

10 (k) An employment agreement described in IC 20-28-6-7.3
11 between an adjunct teacher and a school corporation is not subject to
12 this section.

13 SECTION 4. IC 21-15-2-4 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
14 2026]. ~~Sec. 4: (a) Each state educational institution shall submit a
15 report annually to the legislative council and the commission for higher
16 education that includes the amount of need based financial aid and
17 merit based financial aid available to students from all sources:~~

18 ~~(b) A report submitted to the legislative council under this section
19 must be in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6.~~

20 SECTION 5. IC 21-18-6-9.5, AS ADDED BY P.L.213-2025,
21 SECTION 246, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
22 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 9.5. (a) As used in this section,
23 "physical facilities" refers to space assigned to departments and
24 organizational units of a state educational institution, including space
25 assigned to departments and organizational units that have functions
26 related to instruction, research, public service, academic support,
27 student services, institutional support, operation and maintenance of
28 physical facilities, auxiliary enterprises, independent operations or
29 noninstitutional activities, hospitals, and residential activities.

30 (b) Not later than July 1, 2026, and not later than each July 1
31 thereafter, the commission shall prepare and submit to the legislative
32 council and to the budget committee a report that examines the
33 utilization of physical facilities primarily used for instruction at each
34 state educational institution. The report must include at least the:

35 (1) number of classroom instructional spaces, instructional
36 laboratory spaces, and combined classroom and instructional
37 laboratory spaces in each physical facility; and

38 (2) utilization of classroom instructional spaces, instructional
39 laboratory spaces, and combined classroom and instructional
40 laboratory spaces in each physical facility;

41 as defined by the commission.

42 (c) In compiling the information for the report required by this



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1 section, the commission shall consider:

2 (1) characteristics of the student body of a state educational
3 institution, such as serving part-time students, commuter
4 students, and working adults;

5 (2) the types of programs provided, and associated necessary
6 instructional space, by a state educational institution; and

7 (3) information about physical facilities that is collected by the
8 commission in support of the commission's recommendations
9 concerning capital as described in IC 21-18-9-1.

10 (d) A state educational institution shall provide any information
11 required by the commission that is necessary to complete the report
12 required by this section in the form and manner required by the
13 commission.

14 (e) A report submitted to the legislative council under this section
15 must be in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6.

16 **(f) This section expires June 30, 2029.**

17 SECTION 6. IC 21-18-9-9 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
18 2026]. ~~Sec. 9: (a) In collaboration with each state educational
19 institution's institutional research or strategic planning department, the
20 commission shall develop an annual report to the general assembly that
21 includes the following information:~~

22 ~~(1) Faculty activities related to the mission of the state
23 educational institution, including teaching, course grading
24 practices, research, scholarship, outreach, and professional
25 services.~~

26 ~~(2) Average and median faculty and administrator salaries.~~

27 ~~(3) Median grade point averages for all students for the fall and
28 spring semesters.~~

29 ~~(4) Median grade point averages for all graduating seniors.~~

30 ~~(5) Other information the commission considers necessary.~~

31 ~~The information in the report must include undergraduate student
32 information and faculty data by academic department, college, or
33 university.~~

34 ~~(b) A state educational institution shall provide the information set
35 forth in subsection (a) in the form required by the commission.~~

36 ~~(c) The report to the general assembly under subsection (a) must
37 be in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6.~~

38 SECTION 7. IC 21-18-9-10.7, AS ADDED BY P.L.213-2025,
39 SECTION 248, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
40 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2027]: Sec. 10.7. (a) For each state educational
41 institution degree program, if the:

42 (1) average number of students who graduate over the

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- 1 immediately preceding three (3) years is fewer than:
 2 (A) ten (10) students for a particular associate degree
 3 program;
 4 (B) fifteen (15) students for a particular bachelor's degree
 5 program;
 6 (C) seven (7) students for a particular master's degree
 7 program;
 8 (D) three (3) students for a particular education specialist
 9 program; or
 10 (E) three (3) students for a particular doctorate degree
 11 program; and
 12 (2) state educational institution would like to continue a degree
 13 program described in subdivision (1);
 14 the state educational institution must request approval from the
 15 commission to continue the degree program.
 16 (b) **Subject to subsection (c)**, if the commission does not grant
 17 approval under subsection (a), the state educational institution must
 18 eliminate:
 19 (1) the degree program; and
 20 (2) any costs associated with the degree program.
 21 (c) **A state educational institution that has been denied**
 22 **approval under subsection (a) may:**
 23 (1) **permit students to enroll in the degree program until**
 24 **June 1 of the year following the commission's denial; and**
 25 (2) **provide students enrolled in the degree program with the**
 26 **opportunity to finish their degree prior to the degree**
 27 **program's closure under subsection (b).**
 28 (d) **The commission shall prepare an annual report concerning**
 29 **the number of degree programs that were denied approval under**
 30 **subsection (a). The report described in this subsection must be**
 31 **submitted, in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6, to the general**
 32 **assembly not later than December 1 of each year.**
 33 SECTION 8. IC 21-18-9-11 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY
 34 1, 2026]. Sec. 11: (a) The commission shall do the following:
 35 (1) Annually determine for each state educational institution:
 36 (A) the percentage of students enrolled in the state
 37 educational institution who are charged tuition based on the
 38 resident tuition rate; and
 39 (B) the percentage of students enrolled in the state
 40 educational institution who are charged tuition based on the
 41 nonresident tuition rate.
 42 (2) Report the information determined for each state educational

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1 institution under subdivision (1) to the budget committee and the
2 legislative council before December 1 of each year. The report
3 to the legislative council must be in an electronic format under
4 IC 5-14-6.

5 (b) A state educational institution must submit to the commission
6 any information needed by the commission to determine the
7 percentages under subsection (a).

8 SECTION 9. IC 21-18-13 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
9 2026]. (Student Athletes: Sudden Cardiac Arrest).

10 SECTION 10. IC 21-30-7-10, AS ADDED BY P.L.142-2024,
11 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
12 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10. (a) A state educational institution shall
13 disclose to the commission any gift of any value received directly or
14 indirectly from any foreign source located in a foreign adversary as
15 follows:

16 (1) For a disclosable gift received after December 31, 2020, and
17 before July 1, 2024, not later than September 1, 2024.

18 (2) For a disclosable gift received after June 30, 2024, biannually
19 on ~~January 1~~ **January 31** and ~~July 1~~ **July 31** of each subsequent
20 year.

21 (b) A gift received from a foreign source through an intermediary
22 or affiliate organization is considered an indirect gift to a state
23 educational institution and is subject to the disclosure required by
24 subsection (a).

25 SECTION 11. IC 21-33-3-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.143-2014,
26 SECTION 7, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
27 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. (a) Subject to this section, in addition to
28 projects authorized by the general assembly, the board of trustees of a
29 state educational institution may engage in a project to:

30 (1) construct buildings or facilities of a cost greater than ~~two~~
31 **three** million dollars (~~\$2,000,000~~); (**\$3,000,000**); or

32 (2) purchase or lease-purchase land, buildings, or facilities the
33 principal value of which exceeds ~~two~~ **three** million dollars
34 (~~\$2,000,000~~); (**\$3,000,000**);

35 only if there are funds available for the project, the project meets any
36 of the applicable conditions, and the project is reviewed by the
37 commission for higher education and approved by the governor upon
38 recommendation of the budget agency. The review by the commission
39 for higher education must be completed not later than ninety (90) days
40 after the project is submitted for review.

41 (b) If:
42 (1) any part of the cost of a project described in subsection (a) is

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1 paid by state appropriated funds or by mandatory student fees
2 assessed all students for the project; and

- 3 (2) the project is to:
 - 4 (A) construct new buildings or facilities of a cost greater
 - 5 than ~~two~~ **three** million dollars (~~\$2,000,000~~); (**\$3,000,000**);
 - 6 or
 - 7 (B) purchase or lease-purchase land, buildings, or facilities
 - 8 the principal value of which exceeds ~~two~~ **three** million
 - 9 dollars (~~\$2,000,000~~); (**\$3,000,000**);

10 the project must also be approved by the general assembly.

11 (c) This section does not limit the board of trustees in
12 supplementing a project approved by the general assembly from gifts
13 or other available funds so long as approval for the expansion of the
14 project is given by the governor on review by the commission for
15 higher education and recommendation of the budget agency.

16 (d) The review and approval requirements of this section do not
17 apply to a project to:

- 18 (1) construct buildings or facilities; or
 - 19 (2) purchase or lease-purchase land, buildings, or facilities;
- 20 if the project involves the expansion or improvement of housing for
21 students undertaken entirely by a fraternity or sorority at the state
22 educational institution.

23 SECTION 12. IC 21-33-3-6, AS AMENDED BY P.L.143-2014,
24 SECTION 8, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
25 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. (a) Subject to subsection (b), in addition to
26 projects authorized by the general assembly, the board of trustees of a
27 state educational institution may engage in a repair and rehabilitation
28 project for which:

- 29 (1) the cost of the project exceeds ~~two~~ **three** million dollars
- 30 (~~\$2,000,000~~); (**\$3,000,000**); and
- 31 (2) any part of the cost of the project is paid by state
- 32 appropriated funds or by mandatory student fees assessed all
- 33 students for the project;

34 only if the project is reviewed by the commission for higher education
35 and approved by the governor, on recommendation of the budget
36 agency. The review by the commission for higher education must be
37 completed not later than ninety (90) days after the project is submitted
38 for review.

39 (b) If no part of the cost of a repair and rehabilitation project is
40 paid by state appropriated funds or by mandatory student fees assessed
41 all students for the project, the review and approval requirements of
42 this section apply only if the project exceeds ~~two~~ **three** million dollars

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1 ~~(\$2,000,000): (\$3,000,000).~~

2 SECTION 13. IC 21-33-3-11 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
3 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
4 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 11. Each state educational**
5 **institution shall submit a report by April 1 of each year to the**
6 **budget committee and the commission for higher education listing**
7 **each capital project of the state educational institution for the**
8 **immediately preceding full calendar year:**

- 9 (1) the cost of which is between two million dollars
- 10 (\$2,000,000) and three millions dollars (\$3,000,000); and
- 11 (2) that did not receive review by the commission for higher
- 12 education under this chapter.

13 **The report shall include for each capital project the location, cost,**
14 **and funding source or sources of the capital project as well as any**
15 **additional information required by the commission for higher**
16 **education.**

17 SECTION 14. IC 21-41-5-15 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY
18 1, 2026]. ~~Sec. 15: Before November 1, 2016; and each November 1~~
19 ~~thereafter, Ivy Tech Community College shall provide the budget~~
20 ~~committee the following information for each of Ivy Tech Community~~
21 ~~College's owned or operated campus locations or sites that offer~~
22 ~~ongoing academic programs and services:~~

- 23 ~~(1) The number of students enrolled;~~
- 24 ~~(2) The amount of square feet of each building;~~
- 25 ~~(3) The operating or overhead costs associated with the campus~~
- 26 ~~location or site.~~

27 SECTION 15. IC 21-49-4-3, AS ADDED BY P.L.113-2024,
28 SECTION 12, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
29 JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 3. Not later than September 1, 2024, and**
30 **September 1 of each year thereafter, a state educational institution shall**
31 **submit to the state budget committee a report with the following**
32 **information for the preceding state fiscal year:**

- 33 ~~(1) The total number of state educational institution:~~
 - 34 ~~(A) full-time and tenured professors;~~
 - 35 ~~(B) adjunct instructors;~~
 - 36 ~~(C) other contingent faculty; and~~
 - 37 ~~(D) nonacademic support or administrative employees.~~
- 38 ~~(2) (1) The total number of employees at the state educational~~
39 ~~institution whose primary or secondary job duties or job titles~~
40 ~~include diversity, equity, and inclusion.~~
- 41 ~~(3) (2) The total number of state educational institution~~
42 ~~adjudications or proceedings regarding violations of policies~~

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1 regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion or harassment.
 2 ~~(4)~~ (3) A list and description of what the state educational
 3 institution did to ensure free speech rights of students.
 4 ~~(5)~~ (4) A list and description of what the state educational
 5 institution did to ensure intellectual freedom for professors.
 6 ~~(6)~~ (5) A list and description of what the state educational
 7 institution did to ensure intellectual and ideological diversity of
 8 professors.
 9 ~~(7)~~ (6) The institution's budget allocations for diversity, equity,
 10 and inclusion initiatives.
 11 SECTION 16. [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026] (a) 25 IAC 5-6-3(b)
 12 is void. The publisher of the Indiana Administrative Code and
 13 Indiana Register shall remove this subsection from the Indiana
 14 Administrative Code.
 15 (b) This SECTION expires July 1, 2027.
 16 SECTION 17. An emergency is declared for this act.

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