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## SENATE BILL No. 224

AM022401 has been incorporated into introduced printing.

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**Synopsis:** Department of natural resources.

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2026

IN 224—LS 6685/DI 150



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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. 224

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning natural and cultural resources.

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

1 SECTION 1. IC 14-8-1-1 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
2 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. Except as otherwise  
3 provided, the definitions in this article apply throughout this title **and**  
4 **312 IAC.**

5 SECTION 2. IC 14-8-2-5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
6 AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY  
7 1, 2026]: **Sec. 2.5. "Adjacent to the affected real property", for**  
8 **purposes of IC 14-11-4, has the meaning set forth in IC 14-11-4-1.5.**

9 SECTION 3. IC 14-8-2-57 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,  
10 2026]. ~~See: 57. "Corporation", for purposes of IC 14-12-3, has the~~  
11 ~~meaning set forth in IC 14-12-3-1.~~

12 SECTION 4. IC 14-8-2-107, AS AMENDED BY P.L.127-2022,  
13 SECTION 7, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
14 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 107. "Fund" has the following meaning:

15 (1) For purposes of IC 14-9-5, the meaning set forth in

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1                   IC 14-9-5-1.

2                   (2) For purposes of IC 14-9-8-21, the meaning set forth in

3                   IC 14-9-8-21.

4                   (3) For purposes of IC 14-9-8-21.5, the meaning set forth in

5                   IC 14-9-8-21.5.

6                   (4) For purposes of IC 14-9-9, the meaning set forth in

7                   IC 14-9-9-3.

8                   (5) For purposes of IC 14-12-1, the meaning set forth in

9                   IC 14-12-1-1.

10                  (6) For purposes of IC 14-12-2, the meaning set forth in

11                  IC 14-12-2-2.

12                  (7) For purposes of IC 14-12-3, the meaning set forth in

13                  IC 14-12-3-2.

14                  (8) (7) For purposes of IC 14-13-1, the meaning set forth in

15                  IC 14-13-1-2.

16                  (9) (8) For purposes of IC 14-13-2, the meaning set forth in

17                  IC 14-13-2-3.

18                  (10) (9) For purposes of IC 14-16-1, the meaning set forth in

19                  IC 14-16-1-30.

20                  (11) (10) For purposes of IC 14-19-8, the meaning set forth in

21                  IC 14-19-8-1.

22                  (12) (11) For purposes of IC 14-19-11, the meaning set forth in

23                  IC 14-19-11-3.1.

24                  (13) (12) For purposes of IC 14-20-11, the meaning set forth in

25                  IC 14-20-11-2.

26                  (14) (13) For purposes of IC 14-22-3, the meaning set forth in

27                  IC 14-22-3-1.

28                  (15) (14) For purposes of IC 14-22-4, the meaning set forth in

29                  IC 14-22-4-1.

30                  (16) For purposes of IC 14-22-5, the meaning set forth in

31                  IC 14-22-5-1.

32                  (17) For purposes of IC 14-22-8, the meaning set forth in

33                  IC 14-22-8-1.

34                  (18) (15) For purposes of IC 14-22-34, the meaning set forth in

35                  IC 14-22-34-2.

36                  (19) (16) For purposes of IC 14-23-3, the meaning set forth in

37                  IC 14-23-3-1.

38                  (20) (17) For purposes of IC 14-25-2-4, the meaning set forth in

39                  IC 14-25-2-4.

40                  (21) (18) For purposes of IC 14-25-10, the meaning set forth in

41                  IC 14-25-10-1.

42                  (22) (19) For purposes of IC 14-25.5, the meaning set forth in

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1                   IC 14-25.5-1-3.

2                   **(23) (20)** For purposes of IC 14-31-2, the meaning set forth in  
3                   IC 14-31-2-5.

4                   **(24) (21)** For purposes of IC 14-25-12, the meaning set forth in  
5                   IC 14-25-12-1.

6                   **(25) (22)** For purposes of IC 14-32-8, the meaning set forth in  
7                   IC 14-32-8-1.

8                   **(26) (23)** For purposes of IC 14-33-14, the meaning set forth in  
9                   IC 14-33-14-3.

10                  **(27) (24)** For purposes of IC 14-33-21, the meaning set forth in  
11                  IC 14-33-21-1.

12                  **(28) (25)** For purposes of IC 14-34-6-15, the meaning set forth in  
13                  IC 14-34-6-15.

14                  **(29) (26)** For purposes of IC 14-34-14, the meaning set forth in  
15                  IC 14-34-14-1.

16                  **(30) (27)** For purposes of IC 14-34-19-1.3, the meaning set forth in  
17                  IC 14-34-19-1.3(a).

18                  **(31) (28)** For purposes of IC 14-34-19-1.5, the meaning set forth in  
19                  IC 14-34-19-1.5(a).

20                  **(32) (29)** For purposes of IC 14-37-10, the meaning set forth in  
21                  IC 14-37-10-1.

22                  SECTION 5. IC 14-8-2-121 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY  
23                  1, 2026]. ~~Sec. 121. "Harvest season", for purposes of IC 14-31-3, has  
24                  the meaning set forth in IC 14-31-3-4.~~

25                  SECTION 6. IC 14-8-2-152 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY  
26                  1, 2026]. ~~Sec. 152. "License" has the following meaning:~~

27                  ~~(1) For purposes of IC 14-11-3-1, the meaning set forth in  
28                   IC 14-11-3-1.~~

29                  ~~(2) For purposes of IC 14-11-4, the meaning set forth in  
30                   IC 14-11-4-3.~~

31                  SECTION 7. IC 14-8-2-152.2 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA  
32                  CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
33                  [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: ~~Sec. 152.2. "Licensee", for purposes  
34                  of IC 14-31-3, has the meaning set forth in IC 14-31-3-4.5.~~

35                  SECTION 8. IC 14-8-2-170 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY  
36                  1, 2026]. ~~Sec. 170. "Municipal corporation", for purposes of  
37                  IC 14-12-3, has the meaning set forth in IC 14-12-3-3.~~

38                  SECTION 9. IC 14-8-2-216 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
39                  FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: ~~Sec. 216. (a) "Program", for  
40                  purposes of IC 14-12-3, has the meaning set forth in IC 14-12-3-4.~~

41                  ~~(b) (a) "Program", for purposes of IC 14-23-6.5, has the meaning  
42                  set forth in IC 14-23-6.5-1.~~

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1                   **(e) (b)** "Program", for purposes of IC 14-32-8, has the meaning set  
2 forth in IC 14-32-8-3.

3 SECTION 10. IC 14-8-2-250 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY  
4 1, 2026]. Sec. 250. "Selling season", for purposes of IC 14-31-3-9, has  
5 the meaning set forth in IC 14-31-3-9.

6 SECTION 11. IC 14-8-2-295.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA  
7 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
8 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 295.5. "Valid license", for**  
9 **purposes of IC 14-31-3, has the meaning set forth in IC 14-31-3-5.5.**

10 SECTION 12. IC 14-8-2-320 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
11 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 320. "Wildlife", ~~has the~~  
12 following meaning:

## Chapter 4. Applicability

**Sec. 1. The department is the successor to:**

- (1) the department of conservation;
- (2) any prior name given to a similar state agency that now falls under the department's jurisdiction; and
- (3) any agency incorporated into the department.

27     **If the department is a successor to an agency under this section, the**  
28     **department becomes responsible for and benefits from the**  
29     **contractual obligations of that agency.**

**Sec. 2. The department may grant easements on properties owned or managed by the department.**

32 SECTION 14. IC 14-10-1-7 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
33 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7. (a) The commission  
34 shall have at least four (4) regular meetings in each fiscal year and as  
35 many additional or special meetings as the commission's business,  
36 powers, or duties require.

37 (b) The chairman:

- (1) may call a special meeting; and
- (2) shall call a special meeting at the request of any five (5) members.

41 (c) A:

**(1) meeting of the commission; or**



(2) public hearing;  
is subject to IC 5-14-1.5.

SECTION 15. IC 14-10-2-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.93-2024, SECTION 120, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. (a) The department may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to carry out the duties of the department under the following:

- (1) IC 14-9.
- (2) This article.
- (3) IC 14-11.
- (4) IC 14-12-2.
- (5) IC 14-14.
- (6) IC 14-15.
- (7) IC 14-17-3.
- (8) IC 14-18, except IC 14-18-6 and IC 14-18-8.
- (9) IC 14-19-1 and IC 14-19-8.
- (10) IC 14-21.
- (11) ~~IC 14-22-3, IC 14-22-4, and IC 14-22-5.~~ **IC 14-22-4.**
- (12) IC 14-23-1.
- (13) IC 14-24.
- (14) IC 14-25, except IC 14-25-8-3 and IC 14-25-9.
- (15) IC 14-26.
- (16) IC 14-27.
- (17) IC 14-28.
- (18) IC 14-29.
- (19) IC 14-35-1, IC 14-35-2, and IC 14-35-3.
- (20) IC 14-37.
- (21) IC 14-38, except IC 14-38-3.
- (22) IC 14-39.

(b) An emergency rule adopted under subsection (a) (as effective before July 1, 2023) expires not later than one (1) year after the rule is accepted for filing by the publisher of the Indiana Register.

(c) A person who violates:

- (1) an emergency rule adopted by the department under IC 4-22-2-37.1 before July 1, 2023; or
- (2) a rule adopted by the department under IC 4-22-2 after June 30, 2023;

to carry out a provision described in subsection (a) commits a Class C infraction, unless otherwise specified under state law.

41 SECTION 16. IC 14-10-2-9 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA  
42 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS

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1        [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 9. (a) A person who wishes to**  
 2        **obtain judicial review of a final agency action under this title must**  
 3        **serve copies of a petition for judicial review upon:**

4            (1) **each person described in IC 4-21.5-5-8; and**  
 5            (2) **the following persons under IC 4-21.5-5-8(a)(4):**

6            (A) **If the department or the state historic preservation**  
 7            **review board is a party to a proceeding, a copy of the**  
 8            **petition required under IC 4-21.5-5-8(a)(4) must be**  
 9            **served upon the department or state historic**  
 10          **preservation review board, as applicable, to the address**  
 11          **published on the website of the department.**

12          (B) **If the Indiana board of licensure for professional**  
 13          **geologists is a party to a proceeding, a copy of the**  
 14          **petition required under IC 4-21.5-5-8(a)(4) must be**  
 15          **served upon the Indiana board of licensure for**  
 16          **professional geologists at the address published on the**  
 17          **website of the state geologist.**

18          (C) **If the Indiana board of registration for soil scientists**  
 19          **is a party to a proceeding, a copy of the petition**  
 20          **required under IC 4-21.5-5-8(a)(4) must be served upon**  
 21          **the Indiana board of registration for soil scientists to the**  
 22          **address published on the website of the office of the state**  
 23          **chemist.**

24          (b) **The following agencies shall publish their office address on**  
 25          **their official website so a person may serve copies of judicial**  
 26          **review:**

27            (1) **The department.**  
 28            (2) **The state geologist.**  
 29            (3) **The office of the state chemist.**

30          SECTION 17. IC 14-11-1-11 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA  
 31          CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
 32          [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 11. Beginning July 1, 2026, a**  
 33          **person who owns property adjacent to a property owned or**  
 34          **managed by the department:**

35            (1) **may not build a temporary or permanent structure that**  
 36            **is less than one hundred (100) feet from the property owned**  
 37            **or managed by the department; or**  
 38            (2) **shall indemnify and hold harmless the department for**  
 39            **damage to a temporary or permanent structure that is less**  
 40            **than one hundred (100) feet from the property owned or**  
 41            **managed by the department.**

42          SECTION 18. IC 14-11-2-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.246-2005,



1 SECTION 116, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
 2 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) The department may adopt  
 3 rules under IC 4-22-2 for the conduct of the following:

- 4 (1) Department meetings.
- 5 (2) Upon the recommendation of the director, the work of the  
 6 department and the divisions.

7 (b) The department may not adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 for the  
 8 establishment of fees for the following:

- 9 (1) Programs of the department or the commission.
- 10 (2) Facilities owned or operated by the department or the  
 11 commission or a lessee of the department or commission.
- 12 (3) Licenses issued by the commission, the department, or the  
 13 director.
- 14 (4) Inspections or other similar services under this title  
 15 performed by the department or an assistant or employee of the  
 16 department.

17 (c) **The director shall:**

- 18 (1) **adopt provisional rules under IC 4-22-2-37.1;**
- 19 (2) **adopt interim rules under IC 4-22-2-37.2; and**
- 20 (3) **approve for preliminary adoption rules for readoption**  
**under IC 4-22-2.6 that do not contain changes to the rules.**

22 SECTION 19. IC 14-11-2-2 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
 23 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. A person who  
 24 violates a rule adopted under this chapter commits a Class C infraction,  
 25 **unless otherwise specified by law.**

26 SECTION 20. IC 14-11-3-1 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY  
 27 1, 2026]. Sec. 1. (a) As used in this section, "license" means a license,  
 28 a franchise, a permit, a certification, an approval, a registration, a  
 29 charter, or a similar form of authorization that may be issued to a  
 30 person by:

- 31 (1) the department;
- 32 (2) the commission; or
- 33 (3) the director;

34 under Indiana law. The term does not include a license issued by the  
 35 historic preservation review board established by IC 14-21-1-20.

36 (b) Notwithstanding any other law, the director shall issue all  
 37 licenses.

38 (c) A designee of the director may issue licenses. A designee of  
 39 the director must be a full-time employee of the department.

40 SECTION 21. IC 14-11-4-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.89-2016,  
 41 SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 42 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. This chapter applies to applications for licenses



1       under the following:  
 2           (1) IC 14-26-2 (lake preservation).  
 3           (2) IC 14-26-5 (~~dams~~: **(lowering of Ten Acre Lake)**).  
 4           **(3) IC 14-27 (levees, dams, and drainage).**  
 5           ~~(3)~~ (4) IC 14-28-1 (flood control).  
 6           **(5) IC 14-29-1 (navigable waterways).**  
 7           ~~(4)~~ (6) IC 14-29-3 (~~removal of substances from streams~~: **(sand**  
 8           **and gravel permits)**.  
 9           ~~(5)~~ (7) IC 14-29-4 (construction of channels).

10       SECTION 22. IC 14-11-4-1.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA  
 11       CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
 12       [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1.5. **(a) As used in this chapter,**  
 13       **"adjacent to the affected real property"** means real property  
 14       owned by a person, other than the applicant of a license, that:

15           **(1) is located not more than one-fourth (1/4) of a mile from**  
 16           **the site where the licensed activity would take place; and**  
 17           **(2) has a border or point in common with the exterior**  
 18           **boundary of the property where the licensed activity would**  
 19           **take place.**

20           **(b) The term includes property that would share a common**  
 21           **border with the property that is the subject of the application if the**  
 22           **property was not separated from property that is the subject of the**  
 23           **application by:**

24           **(1) a right-of-way;**  
 25           **(2) an easement; or**  
 26           **(3) a railroad.**

27       SECTION 23. IC 14-11-4-3 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY  
 28       1, 2026]. **See: 3: As used in this chapter, "license" means a permit, a**  
 29       **license, a concession, or other authorization that may be issued to a**  
 30       **person by:**

31           **(1) the director;**  
 32           **(2) the department; or**  
 33           **(3) the commission;**

34       **under Indiana law.**

35       SECTION 24. IC 14-11-4-4 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
 36       FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. **(a) The director or**  
 37       **the department may not issue a license until thirty (30) days after the**  
 38       **notice required by this chapter has been is given to a person specified**  
 39       **under section 5 of this chapter by the applicant.**

40           **(b) An applicant may provide the notice may be given under**  
 41           **subsection (a) at any time after an application for a license is filed with**  
 42           **the department. The department may require by rule that notice under**



1       section 5 of this chapter be provided by the license applicant.

2           SECTION 25. IC 14-11-4-5 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
 3           FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. (a) If a license  
 4           application affects real property, notice of the application is required  
 5           as follows:

6           (1) The applicant must notify at least one (1) of the owners of  
 7           each parcel of real property reasonably known to be adjacent to  
 8           the affected real property.

9           (2) The department shall notify the persons who have requested  
 10           notification of a license application that:

11           (A) affects the specific real property to which the  
 12           application relates; or  
 13           (B) is of the same type as the application.

14           **(3) The applicant must notify by publication, with proof of  
 15           service made by a publisher's affidavit, under the following  
 16           circumstances:**

17           (A) The current address of a person entitled to notice  
 18           under this rule is not ascertainable.

19           (B) The identity or existence of a person entitled to  
 20           notice is not ascertainable.

21           (C) The department requires notice by publication  
 22           because the license application is likely to evoke general  
 23           public interest.

24           (b) The commission may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to require  
 25           the following:

26           (1) That additional persons be notified of an application for a  
 27           license.

28           (2) That additional forms of notice be given.

29           **(c) The applicant shall provide to the department proof of  
 30           service of the notices required under subsection (a)(1) and (a)(3) as  
 31           follows:**

32           **(1) By providing a mailing receipt showing successful return  
 33           from the person notified if service is made by certified mail  
 34           with return receipt requested.**

35           **(2) By an affidavit or affirmation on a department form if  
 36           service is made in person or by first class mail, with a  
 37           certificate of mailing, including the following:**

38           (A) The names and addresses of each person served.

39           (B) The date of personal service or mailing.

40           (C) If service was made by mail, that a period of at least  
 41           twenty-one (21) days has passed without the mailing  
 42           being returned as undelivered or undeliverable.



**(d) A notice under this section shall do the following:**

- (1) Provide the name and address of the applicant.**
- (2) Identify the statute or rule, or both, under which a license is sought.**
- (3) Identify the real property to which the application relates, unless the license is not related to real property.**
- (4) Provide any other information required by statute or rule relative to the particular type of license sought.**
- (5) Include an explanation of the options available to a person served as follows:**
  - (A) File a petition with the director requesting an informal hearing that is signed by at least twenty-five (25) individuals who are at least eighteen (18) years of age and who:**
    - (i) reside in the county where the licensed activity would take place; or**
    - (ii) own real property within one (1) mile of the site of the proposed or existing licensed activity.**
  - (B) Request the department notify a person in writing when an initial determination is made to issue or deny the license.**

SECTION 26. IC 14-12-1-13 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 026]. See. 13. Expenditures from the fund shall be coordinated with expenditures under the President Benjamin Harrison conservation trust program established by IC 14-12-2.

SECTION 27. IC 14-12-2-14, AS AMENDED BY P.L.42-2024, SECTION 106, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 14. (a) The President Benjamin Harrison conservation trust project commission is established.

(b) The project commission consists of the following twenty (20) nineteen (17) members:

- (1) The director of the division of fish and wildlife.**
- (2) The director of the division of forestry.**
- (3) The director of the division of nature preserves.**
- (4) The director of the division of state parks.**
- (1) A staff member of the department appointed by the director for each account listed under section 26(a)(1) through 26(a)(5) of this chapter.**
- (2) The chief executive officer of the Indiana state museum and historic sites corporation established by IC 4-37-2-1.**
- (3) The chairperson of the board of directors of the natural resources foundation.**

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1                   **(7) (4) Ten (10) Six (6)** individuals appointed by the governor.  
 2                   The governor shall appoint individuals so that all the following  
 3                   are satisfied:

4                   (A) The individuals must be residents of Indiana.  
 5                   (B) The individuals must have a demonstrated interest or  
 6                   experience in:

- 7                   (i) conservation of natural resources; or  
 8                   (ii) management of public property.

9                   (C) There must be two (2) commission members from each  
 10                  of the following regions of Indiana:

- 11                  (i) **Northwest. North.**
- 12                  (ii) **Northeast. Central.**
- 13                  (iii) **Southwest. South.**
- 14                  (iv) **Southeast.**
- 15                  (v) **Central.**

16                   **(8) (5)** The following four (4) nonvoting members:

17                   (A) One (1) member of the house of representatives  
 18                   appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

19                   (B) One (1) member of the house of representatives  
 20                   appointed by the minority leader of the house of  
 21                   representatives.

22                   (C) One (1) member of the senate appointed by the  
 23                   president pro tempore of the senate.

24                   (D) One (1) member of the senate appointed by the minority  
 25                   leader of the senate.

26                   (c) The individuals appointed by the governor under subsection

27                   **(b)(7)(b)(4)** must represent one (1) or more of the following:

- 28                  (1) The environmentalist community.
- 29                  (2) The land trust community.
- 30                  (3) Organized hunting and fishing groups.
- 31                  (4) The forest products community.
- 32                  (5) The parks and recreation community.

33                   Each group and community listed in subdivisions (1) through (5) must  
 34                   be represented on the project commission.

35                   SECTION 28. IC 14-12-2-15, AS AMENDED BY P.L.1-2025,  
 36                   SECTION 179, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
 37                   [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 15. (a) As used in this section,  
 38                   "appointing authority" refers to:

39                  (1) the governor in the case of a member appointed under section  
 40                  **14(b)(7) 14(b)(4)** of this chapter; or

41                  (2) the speaker of the house of representatives, the minority  
 42                  leader of the house of representatives, the president pro tempore



1 of the senate, or the minority leader of the senate in the case of  
 2 a member appointed under section ~~14(b)(8)~~ **14(b)(5)** of this  
 3 chapter, whichever is applicable.

4 (b) As used in this section, "member" refers to a member of the  
 5 project commission appointed under section ~~14(b)(7)~~ **14(b)(4)** through  
 6 ~~14(b)(8)~~ **14(b)(5)** of this chapter.

7 (c) The term of a member begins on the later of the following:  
 8 (1) The day the term of the member who the individual is  
 9 appointed to succeed expires.  
 10 (2) The day the individual is appointed by the appointing  
 11 authority.

12 (d) A member serves at the pleasure of the appointing authority.  
 13 The term of a member expires as follows:

14 (1) June 30 of an odd-numbered year for a member appointed  
 15 under section ~~14(b)(8)~~ **14(b)(5)** of this chapter.  
 16 (2) June 30, 2025, and each fourth year thereafter for ~~a~~ **one (1)**  
 17 member **from the north region** appointed under section  
 18 ~~14(b)(7)(C)(i), 14(b)(7)(C)(iii), or 14(b)(7)(C)(v)~~ **14(b)(4)(C)(i)** of  
 19 this chapter.  
 20 (3) December 31, 2025, and each fourth year thereafter for ~~a~~ **one (1)**  
 21 member **from the central or south region** appointed under  
 22 section ~~14(b)(7)(C)(ii) or 14(b)(7)(C)(iv)~~ **14(b)(4)(C)(ii) or**  
 23 **14(b)(4)(C)(iii)** of this chapter.

24 (e) The appointing authority may reappoint a member for a new  
 25 term.

26 (f) The appointing authority shall appoint an individual to fill a  
 27 vacancy among the members. An individual appointed to fill a vacancy  
 28 serves for the unexpired term of the individual's predecessor.

29 SECTION 29. IC 14-12-2-16, AS AMENDED BY P.L.42-2024,  
 30 SECTION 108, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
 31 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 16. **The governor The project**  
 32 **commission** shall appoint the chair and vice chair of the project  
 33 commission from among the members of the commission **by a**  
 34 **majority vote.**

35 SECTION 30. IC 14-12-2-18, AS AMENDED BY P.L.42-2024,  
 36 SECTION 110, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
 37 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 18. (a) ~~Eight (8)~~ **Seven (7)**  
 38 members of the project commission constitute a quorum.

39 (b) The affirmative vote of a majority of the voting members of the  
 40 project commission present and voting is necessary for the project  
 41 commission to take any action.

42 (c) A member of the project commission described in section



1       14(b)(1) through 14(b)(5) and 14(b)(2) of this chapter may designate  
 2       in writing a representative from the respective division to serve as a  
 3       member of the project commission when the member of the project  
 4       commission is unable to attend a meeting.

5       SECTION 31. IC 14-12-2-21, AS AMENDED BY P.L.42-2024,  
 6       SECTION 113, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
 7       [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 21. (a) The following procedure  
 8       must be followed before money from the fund may be used to acquire  
 9       property for a project under this chapter:

10      (1) The project commission must review and approve a project  
 11       requiring the acquisition of the property.

12      (2) The project commission must recommend the project to the  
 13       governor for approval.

14      (3) The governor, or the governor's designee, must approve the  
 15       project as recommended by the project commission and inform  
 16       the director of the department of the governor's approval.

17      (b) When the procedure under subsection (a) is completed, the  
 18       department shall acquire the property subject to the project according  
 19       to Indiana law.

20      SECTION 32. IC 14-12-2-32 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY  
 21       1, 2026]. ~~Sec. 32. Expenditures from the fund shall be coordinated with  
 22       expenditures by the foundation from the Indiana natural resources fund  
 23       established by IC 14-12-1-11.~~

24      SECTION 33. IC 14-12-3 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,  
 25       2026]. (Hometown Indiana Grant Program).

26      SECTION 34. IC 14-15-3-19 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
 27       FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 19. Provisions of this  
 28       chapter concerning the operation of boats or motorboats apply as  
 29       follows:

30      (1) Whether or not the boat or motorboat is towing a ~~water ski, a watersled, an aquaplane, or a similar object, including a person on the water ski, watersled, aquaplane, or similar any object.~~

31      (2) To each object and person.

32      SECTION 35. IC 14-15-3-20 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
 33       FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 20. A person operating  
 34       a motorboat may not tow a water ski, a watersled, a **wakeboard**,  
 35       **barefoot water skis**, an aquaplane, or a similar object, including a  
 36       person on the waterski, watersled, **wakeboard**, **barefoot water skis**,  
 37       aquaplane, or similar object, unless:

38      (1) the motorboat is occupied by at least one (1) other person  
 39       who is giving the person's entire attention to watching the object,  
 40       **wakeboard**, or person towed; and



3 SECTION 36. IC 14-15-4-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.111-2016,  
4 SECTION 11, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
5 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) The operator of a boat involved in an  
6 accident or a collision resulting in: shall provide the information  
7 required under subsection (b) if the following conditions occur:

(1) Injury to or death of a person. or  
(2) Damage to a boat or other property to an apparent extent of  
at least **the greater of:** seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750);  
shall provide the information required under subsection (b).

- (A) two thousand dollars (\$2,000); or
- (B) the amount for assessed damage under the United States Department of Homeland Security Boating Accident Report Database (BARD).

16 (b) An operator of a boat subject to subsection (a) shall do the  
17 following:

18 (1) Give notice of the accident to:

19 (A) the office of the sheriff of the county;

20 (B) the nearest state police post; or

21 (C) the central dispatch center for the law enforcement  
22 division of the department;

23 immediately and by the quickest means of communication.

27 SECTION 37. IC 14-16-1-24 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
28 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 24. (a) The operator of  
29 a vehicle involved in an accident resulting in serious bodily injury to  
30 or death of an individual or property damage in an estimated amount  
31 of at least ~~seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750)~~ **two thousand five**  
32 **hundred dollars (\$2,500)** shall immediately, by the quickest means of  
33 communication, notify at least one (1) of the following:

34 (1) A state police officer or conservation officer.

35 (2) The sheriff's office of the county where the accident  
36 occurred.

37 (3) The office of the police department of the municipality where  
38 the accident occurred.

39 (b) The police agency receiving the notice shall do the following:

40 (1) Complete a report of the accident on forms prescribed by the  
41 director.

42 (2) Forward the report to the director.



1           SECTION 38. IC 14-18-10-1 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
 2           FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. **(a)** A person may not  
 3           erect or construct a utility, telephone, or telegraph line upon or across:  
 4           (1) a state park;  
 5           (2) a state forest;  
 6           (3) a state game preserve; **or**  
 7           (4) land acquired by the state and set aside for use by the public  
 8           as a scenic or historic place; **or**  
 9           (5) ~~that part of a public highway right-of-way that passes through~~  
 10           ~~a state park; a state forest; a state game preserve; or land~~  
 11           ~~acquired by the state and set aside for use by the public as a~~  
 12           ~~scenic or historic place;~~  
 13           unless the person ~~has a permit is granted an easement~~ from the  
 14           **director department** to erect or construct the line.

15           **(b) Before an easement is approved, the state land office must**  
 16           **approve the legal description contained in the easement.**

17           **(c) A person shall file an easement with the state land office**  
 18           **after the easement is recorded in the county.**

19           SECTION 39. IC 14-18-10-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.145-2015,  
 20           SECTION 6, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 21           JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. **(a)** The **director department** may issue grant  
 22           to any person, ~~without charge, a permit for a fee as determined under~~  
 23           **subsection (b), an easement** to erect or construct a utility, telephone,  
 24           or telegraph line, **ingress, or egress** as described in section 1 of this  
 25           chapter under the rules and restrictions that the **director department**  
 26           considers necessary:

27           (1) for the protection and preservation of the natural scenic  
 28           conditions of the land; or  
 29           (2) to prevent the **utility, telephone, or telegraph** line from  
 30           interfering with or obstructing the use and enjoyment of the  
 31           property by the public.

32           However, the **director shall not impose a charge to issue a permit to**  
 33           **erect or construct a utility, telephone, or telegraph line as described in**  
 34           **section 1(5) of this chapter.**

35           **(b) The department shall charge a fee for an easement**  
 36           **described in section 1 of this chapter under one (1) of the following:**

37           (1) **The amount determined by an appraisal prepared by a**  
 38           **qualified appraiser, at the expense of the applicant.**  
 39           (2) **The maximum width of the easement multiplied by the**  
 40           **rate per linear foot in the table below:**

41           **MAXIMUM EASEMENT RATE PER LINEAR FOOT**  
 42           **WIDTH IN FEET**



1	<b>Not more than 10</b>	<b>\$4</b>
2	<b>10-15</b>	<b>\$6</b>
3	<b>15-20</b>	
4	<b>\$8</b>	
5	<b>20-30</b>	<b>\$12</b>
6	<b>30-40</b>	<b>\$16</b>
7	<b>40-50</b>	<b>\$20</b>
8	<b>50-100</b>	<b>\$40</b>
9	<b>More than 100</b>	<b>\$80</b>

10       The fee charged by the department for an easement under this  
 11      subsection is at least one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

12       (c) The department shall put fees collected for easements  
 13      under this section into the President Benjamin Harrison  
 14      conservation trust fund established by IC 14-12-2-25 and into the  
 15      account for the division which the easement is located under  
 16      IC 14-12-2-26.

17       (d) The department may grant an easement without charge  
 18      under this section if the easement:

19       (1) meets the requirement under subsection (a)(1) or (a)(2);  
 20       and

21       (2) provides a direct benefit to a property described in  
 22      section 1 of this chapter.

23       SECTION 40. IC 14-18-10-3 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
 24      FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. A person may not  
 25      construct or erect a utility, telegraph, or telephone line, **ingress, or**  
 26      **egress** as described in section 1 of this chapter in violation of any of  
 27      the rules and restrictions of a **permit issued an easement granted**  
 28      under this chapter.

29       SECTION 41. IC 14-18-11-1 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
 30      FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. The department may  
 31      grant and convey by deed **or easement** rights-of-way to railroads **and**  
 32      **to telegraph and telephone companies** to construct and operate lines  
 33      across the land of state forests, **and state nurseries**.

34       SECTION 42. IC 14-18-11-2 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
 35      FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. The terms and  
 36      conditions upon which the rights-of-way are granted and conveyed by  
 37      deed **or easement** under this chapter must be submitted to and  
 38      approved by:

39       (1) the governor;

40       (2) the attorney general; and

41       (3) the Indiana department of administration;

42      before the deed becomes operative or possession is taken under a deed.



1                   SECTION 43. IC 14-21-1-25, AS AMENDED BY P.L.26-2008,  
 2                   SECTION 6, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 3                   JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 25. (a) The commission shall adopt rules  
 4                   establishing standards for plans.  
 5                   (b) With respect to archeological plans, the rules must impose a  
 6                   standard of conduct that does the following:  
 7                    (1) Promotes the scientific investigation and conservation of past  
 8                    cultures;  
 9                    (2) Considers the interests and expertise of amateur  
 10                    archeologists and professional archeologists;  
 11                   (c) With respect to development plans, the rules must impose a  
 12                   standard of conduct that preserves and protects both of the following:  
 13                    (1) The rights and interests of landowners;  
 14                    (2) The sensitivity of human beings for treating human remains  
 15                    with respect and dignity, as determined by the commission;  
 16                   (d) Subject to subsection (e), plans required under this chapter  
 17                   must be submitted to the department for approval according to rules  
 18                   adopted by the commission.  
 19                   (e) (a) Proposed archeological plans and development plans  
 20                   submitted to the department must be:  
 21                    (1) approved;  
 22                    (2) approved with conditions;  
 23                    (2) (3) denied; or  
 24                    (3) (4) held because of the need for additional information;  
 25                   by the department not more than sixty (60) days after the date of  
 26                   submission. If the department does not take any action on the plan  
 27                   within the time required by this subsection, the plan is considered to be  
 28                   approved, unless approval is prohibited under a state or federal law. If  
 29                   the department requests additional information under subdivision (3),  
 30                   (4), the department shall inform the applicant if the plan is deemed  
 31                   incomplete, inaccurate, or both, and provide the applicant an  
 32                   opportunity to cure any issues. The department shall approve or  
 33                   deny the resubmitted plan not more than thirty (30) days after the  
 34                   resubmitted plan additional information is received.  
 35                   (b) Unless otherwise specified in the authorization:  
 36                    (1) an approved archeology plan expires one (1) year; and  
 37                    (2) an approved development plan expires two (2) years;  
 38                   after issuance by the division.  
 39                   (c) An applicant must comply with:  
 40                    (1) any other federal, state, or local laws and ordinances;  
 41                    (2) 312 IAC 21; and  
 42                    (3) 312 IAC 22.



(d) If the division issues written approval, an applicant may modify the authorized project activities.

SECTION 44. IC 14-21-1-25.1 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 25.1. An application for approval of a development plan under section 26.5 of this chapter must be filed with the division and include the following:**

**(1) A signed cover letter from the applicant on letterhead with the following information:**

(A) The identity of the person who will conduct the project.

- (B) The overall nature and time frame of the project.
- (C) The location of the project by section, township, range, county, and address.

(D) Information regarding any prior disturbance to the area.

(E) A statement regarding whether federal or state funds or licenses are involved in the project.

(2) Mapping to show the location of the burial ground or cemetery in relation to the project that includes the following:

(A) Construction details for any activity within one hundred (100) feet of the burial ground or cemetery.

### **(B) References to nearby landmarks.**

**(C) The location of the burial ground or cemetery and the project area on the appropriate U.S. Geological Survey U.S. TOPO: Maps for America.**

**(3) A description of the burial ground or cemetery sufficient to evaluate the likely impact of the project, including the following:**

**(A) Any name of the burial ground or cemetery.**

**(B) The dates the burial ground or cemetery has been used.**

**(C) Historical information and documentation.**

**(D) Precise boundaries that reference nearby landmarks. If documentation is not available to identify the burial ground or cemetery boundaries, the applicant may be required to determine those boundaries through the following:**

**(i) Remote sensing.**

## **(ii) Investigations by archeologists.**

**(iii) Another scientific method approved by the**

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**division.**

**(E) The physical condition of the burial ground or cemetery.**

(4) A description of the grounds adjacent to and within one hundred (100) feet of the burial ground or cemetery, including the following:

(A) The nature, depth, and degree of previous disturbances, including those caused by:

- (i) construction;
- (ii) excavation;
- (iii) grading; or
- (iv) filling.

**(B) A description of soil, by type, present at the site, including an explanation of how the soil would be:**

**(i) disturbed**

(ii) graded:

- (ii) grade;
- (iii) modified;

- (iii) modified;
- (iv) removed; or

- (iv) removed, or
- (v) otherwise treated

(C) A description of each structure

(D) A description of the activities anticipated to:

### (i) erect:

(i) erect,  
(ii) alter· or

(ii) alter, or  
(iii) repair;

### (iii) Repetitive structure

(E) Each area that may contain new construction in connection with the proposed construction areas.

(5) Recent photographs of the burial ground or cemetery and the grounds adjacent to and within one hundred (100) feet of the burial ground or cemetery.

the burial ground or cemetery.

SECTION 45. IC 14-21-1-25.5 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. Sec. 25.5. (a) If a Native American Indian burial ground is discovered, the department shall immediately provide notice to the Native American Indian affairs commission established by IC 4-22-32.

(b) If Native American Indian human remains are removed from a burial ground, the department shall provide the following to the Native American Indian affairs commission:

(1) Any written findings or reports that result from the analysis and study of the human remains.

(2) Written notice to the Native American Indian affairs commission that the analysis and study of the human remains are



1 complete.

6 SECTION 46. IC 14-21-1-26.5, AS AMENDED BY  
7 P.L.158-2013, SECTION 201, IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
8 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 26.5. (a)  
9 Notwithstanding IC 23-14-44-1, this section does not apply to the  
10 following:

25 (c) A development plan:

26 (1) must be approved if a person intends to:

27 (A) excavate or cover over the ground; or

28 (B) construct a new structure or alter or repair an existing  
29 structure;

30 that would impact the burial ground or cemetery; and

31 (2) is not required if a person intends to:

32 (A) excavate or cover over the ground; or

33 (B) erect, alter, or repair an existing structure;

34 for an incidental or existing use that would not impact the burial  
35 ground or cemetery.

36 (d) A development plan for a governmental entity to disturb  
37 ground within one hundred (100) feet of a burial ground must be  
38 approved as follows:

39 (1) A development plan of a municipality requires approval of  
40 the executive of the municipality and does not require the  
41 approval of the department. However, if the burial ground or  
42 cemetery is located outside the municipality, approval is also

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1 required by the executive of the county where the burial ground  
 2 or cemetery is located. A county cemetery commission  
 3 established under IC 23-14-67-2 may advise the executive of the  
 4 municipality on whether to approve a development plan.

5 (2) A development plan of a governmental entity other than:  
 6     (A) a municipality; or  
 7     (B) the state;

8 requires the approval of the executive of the county where the  
 9 governmental entity is located and does not require the approval  
 10 of the department. However, if the governmental entity is located  
 11 in more than one (1) county, only the approval of the executive  
 12 of the county where the burial ground or cemetery is located is  
 13 required. A county cemetery commission established under  
 14 IC 23-14-67-2 may advise the county executive on whether to  
 15 approve a development plan.

16 (3) A development plan of the state requires the approval of the  
 17 department.

18 (e) If a burial ground is within an archeological site, an  
 19 archeological plan is required to be part of the development plan.

20 (f) A person who recklessly, knowingly, or intentionally violates  
 21 this section commits a Class A misdemeanor. However, the offense is  
 22 a Level 6 felony if the person disturbs buried human remains or grave  
 23 markers while committing the offense.

24 (g) **An applicant must comply with:**

25     (1) any other federal, state, or local laws and ordinances;  
 26     (2) 312 IAC 21; and  
 27     (3) 312 IAC 22.

28 (h) **An applicant may modify the project activities authorized  
 29 by the division only upon written approval by the division.**

30 SECTION 47. IC 14-21-1-31 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
 31 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 31. (a) The commission  
 32 shall **may** adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to implement this chapter.

33 (b) **When adopting rules under this chapter** The commission **shall**  
 34 **may** consider the following **when adopting rules under this chapter:**

35     (1) The rights and interests of landowners.  
 36     (2) The sensitivity of human beings for treating human remains  
 37 with respect and dignity.  
 38     (3) The value of history and archeology as a guide to human  
 39 activity.  
 40     (4) The importance of amateur archeologists in making  
 41 historical, cultural, and archeological discoveries.  
 42     (5) Applicable laws, standards, and guidelines for the conduct of



archeology and codes of ethics for participation in archeology.

SECTION 48. IC 14-22-5 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016]. (Deer Research and Management Fund).

SECTION 49. IC 14-22-6-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.144-2022, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. (a) For purposes of this section, a trap is designed to capture and kill a furbearing animal if the animal's death is the result of:

- (1) submerging the animal in water; or
- (2) crushing or asphyxiating the animal.

(b) A person may not do the following:

(1) Tend or visit a trap or remove a furbearing animal from a trap that is not the person's property without the permission of the owner.

(2) For a trap that is designed to capture but not kill a furbearing animal:

- (A) fail to tend or visit; or have tended or visited a trap and
- (B) remove a furbearing animal from;

a trap that is the person's property within a period not exceeding twenty-four (24) hours.

(3) For a trap that is designed to capture and kill a furbearing animal:

- (A) fail to tend or visit; or have tended or visited a trap and
- (B) remove a furbearing animal from;

a trap that is the person's property within a period not exceeding forty-eight (48) hours.

(c) The department shall publish a recommendation that the best practice to comply with this section is to tend or visit, or have tended or visited a furbearing trap that is the person's property within a period not to exceed twenty-four (24) hours.

SECTION 50. IC 14-22-6-14 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. **Sec. 14.** (a) The:

(1) division of fish and wildlife of the department; and  
(2) division of soil conservation established within the Indiana state department of agriculture by IC 15-11-4-1, through the soil and water conservation districts established under IC 14-32; ; in cooperation with other conservation education organizations one (1) or more organizations of hunters; establish a program to landowners with problems determined by the director to be caused by a localized deer population.

(b) The program established under this section must educate landowners concerning the means by which a landowner can:

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(d) In each county, the division of fish and wildlife, in cooperation with the soil and water conservation district established within the county under IC 14-32, shall disseminate information about the program established under this section.

12 SECTION 51. IC 14-22-8-1 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY  
13 1, 2026]. Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "fund" refers to the game bird  
14 habitat restoration fund established by this chapter.

15 SECTION 52. IC 14-22-8-6 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY  
16 1, 2026]. See. 6. (a) The game bird habitat restoration fund is  
17 established as a dedicated fund.

26 (d) Money in the fund does not revert to the state general fund at  
27 the end of a state fiscal year. If the fund is abolished, the contents  
28 revert to the fish and wildlife fund.

29 SECTION 53. IC 14-22-9-10, AS AMENDED BY P.L.195-2017,  
30 SECTION 9, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
31 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10. (a) This section does not apply to the  
32 following:

33 (1) A privately owned lake, farm pond, or public or private  
34 drainage ditch.  
35 (2) A landowner or tenant adjacent to public waters or boundary  
36 waters of the state, who chemically, mechanically, or physically  
37 controls aquatic vegetation in the immediate vicinity of a boat  
38 landing or bathing beach on or adjacent to the real property of  
39 the landowner or tenant if the following conditions exist:

39 the landowner or tenant if the following conditions exist:

40 (A) The area where vegetation is to be controlled does not

41 exceed:

42 (i) twenty-five (25) feet along the legally established,

42 (i) twenty-five (25) feet along the legally established,

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7 (b) A person may not chemically, mechanically, physically, or  
8 biologically control aquatic vegetation in the public: **waters or:**

**(1) waters containing state owned fish;**

(2) waters of the state; or

(3) boundary waters of the state;

12 without a permit issued by the department. All procedures to control  
13 aquatic vegetation under this section shall be conducted in accordance  
14 with rules adopted by the department under IC 4-22-2.

15 (c) Subject to IC 14-22-2-10, upon receipt of an application for a  
16 permit to control aquatic vegetation and the payment of a fee of five  
17 dollars (\$5), the department may issue a permit to the applicant.  
18 However, if the aquatic vegetation proposed to be controlled is present  
19 in a public water supply, the department may not, without prior written  
20 approval from the department of environmental management, approve  
21 a permit for chemical control of the aquatic vegetation.

(d) This section does not do any of the following:

23 (1) Act as a bar to a suit or cause of action by a person or  
24 governmental agency.

(2) Relieve the permittee from liability, rules, restrictions, or permits that may be required of the permittee by any other governmental agency.

(3) Affect water pollution control laws (as defined in IC 13-11-2-261) and the rules adopted under water pollution control laws (as defined in IC 13-11-2-261).

31 SECTION 54. IC 14-22-10-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.113-2019,  
32 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
33 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) As used in this section and section 2.5 of  
34 this chapter, "governmental entity" means any of the following:

35 (1) The government of the United States of America.

36 (2) The state.

37 (3) A county.

38 (4) A city.

39 (5) A town.

40 (6) A township.

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1 ordinance, a rule, or an order:

2 (A) An agency.

3 (B) A board.

4 (C) A commission.

5 (D) A committee.

6 (E) A council.

7 (F) A department.

8 (G) A district.

9 (H) A public body corporate and politic.

10 (b) As used in this section and section 2.5 of this chapter,  
11 "monetary consideration" means a fee or other charge for permission  
12 to go upon a tract of land. The term does not include:

13 (1) the gratuitous sharing of game, fish, or other products of the  
14 recreational use of the land;

15 (2) services rendered for the purpose of wildlife management; or

16 (3) contributions in kind made for the purpose of wildlife  
17 management.

18 (c) As used in this section and section 2.5 of this chapter, "owner"  
19 means a governmental entity or another person that:

20 (1) has a fee interest in;

21 (2) is a tenant, a lessee, or an occupant of; or

22 (3) is in control of;

23 a tract of land.

24 (d) A person who goes upon or through the premises, including  
25 caves, of another:

26 (1) with or without permission; and

27 (2) either:

28 (A) without the payment of monetary consideration; or

29 (B) with the payment of monetary consideration directly or  
30 indirectly on the person's behalf by an agency of the state or  
31 federal government;

32 for the purpose of swimming, camping, hiking, sightseeing, **exercising,**  
33 **cycling,** **performing recreational sports,** or accessing or departing  
34 from a trail, a greenway, or another similar area, or for any other  
35 purpose (other than the purposes described in section 2.5 of this  
36 chapter) ~~does not have an assurance that the premises are safe for the  
37 purpose. is subject to the limitations of liability granted to the  
38 owner of the premises described in subsection (e).~~

39 (e) The owner of the premises does not

40 (1) assume responsibility; or

41 (2) incur liability;

42 for an injury to a person or property caused by an act or failure to act

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1       of other persons using the premises; assume responsibility or incur  
 2       liability for an injury to a:

3           (1) person caused by:

4              (A) an act; or

5              (B) the failure to act;

6       of another person using the premises;

7       (2) person caused by a condition on the land; or

8       (3) person's property caused by:

9              (A) the act of another person using the premises; or

10             (B) a condition on the land.

11       (f) This section does not affect the following:

12            (1) Existing Indiana case law on the liability of owners or  
 13            possessors of premises with respect to the following:

14              (A) Business invitees in commercial establishments;

15              (B) Invited guests;

16            (2) the attractive nuisance doctrine.

17       (g) This section does not excuse the owner or occupant of  
 18       premises from liability for injury to a person or property caused by a  
 19       malicious or an illegal act of the owner or occupant.

20       SECTION 55. IC 14-22-10-5 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
 21       FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. The title to a wild  
 22       animal illegally taken or accidentally killed in violation of this article  
 23       or IC 14-2 (before its repeal) does not vest in the taker of the wild  
 24       animal, but remains in the state. The director shall **may** do the  
 25       following:

26            (1) Seize and confiscate the wild animal in the name of the state  
 27       of Indiana.

28            (2) Sell or dispose of the wild animal.

29            (3) Deposit proceeds, if any, into the fish and wildlife fund.

30       SECTION 56. IC 14-22-11-19 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE  
 31       JULY 1, 2026]. Sec. 19. (a) The department may adopt rules under  
 32       IC 4-22-2 to establish and operate a lottery system to allow an  
 33       individual to purchase a license to take more than one (1) antlered deer  
 34       within a one (1) year period.

35            (b) The rules adopted under subsection (a) must include the  
 36       following provisions:

37              (1) A provision stating that an individual must have held and  
 38       used a valid license to take a deer under IC 14-22-12 within the  
 39       same year in order to participate in the lottery under this section.

40              (2) A provision stating that the fee for participating in the lottery  
 41       under this section is thirty dollars (\$30).

42              (3) A provision stating that the drawing for the lottery under this



1 section will be held on December 15.

2 (4) A provision stating that there will be only one hundred (100)

3 licenses awarded under the lottery.

4 (5) A provision stating that the season for the deer hunt for

5 which a license is awarded under the lottery is the first week of

6 January.

7 SECTION 57. IC 14-22-12-2 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY

8 1, 2026]. See. 2. Except for a license sold under IC 14-22-31-8, the

9 department shall use the following to increase the upland game bird

10 population in Indiana:

11 (1) Four dollars (\$4) from the cost of every nonresident license

12 to hunt any game for any period in any manner.

13 (2) Forty dollars (\$40) from the cost of every nonresident license

14 to hunt deer for any period in any manner.

15 SECTION 58. IC 14-22-12-3 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY

16 1, 2026]. See. 3. The department shall deposit in the fish and wildlife

17 fund twenty dollars (\$20) from the cost of every nonresident license to

18 hunt deer for any time in any manner. The department shall transfer the

19 revenue deposited under this section from the fish and wildlife fund to

20 the deer research and management fund. However, a transfer is not

21 required if the budget agency finds that it would reduce the balance in

22 the fish and wildlife fund to less than three million dollars (\$3,000,000)

23 at the end of the state fiscal year.

24 SECTION 59. IC 14-22-15.5-7 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE

25 JULY 1, 2026]. See. 7. An individual who acts as a hunting guide

26 without a hunting guide license in violation of section 2 of this chapter

27 commits a Class B infraction.

28 SECTION 60. IC 14-22-16-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.155-2015,

29 SECTION 16, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE

30 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. A person desiring to possess in Indiana at one

31 (1) time more than:

32 (1) five hundred (500) thousand (5,000) live minnows; or

33 (2) five hundred (500) thousand (5,000) live crayfish;

34 not intended for the purpose of engaging in the business of selling or

35 bartering live minnows or crayfish for bait must procure a permit to

36 possess the minnows or crayfish.

37 SECTION 61. IC 14-22-32 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY

38 1, 2026]. (Game Bird and Exotic Mammal Regulation).

39 SECTION 62. IC 14-22-34-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.7-2015,

40 SECTION 40, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE

41 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) As used in this chapter, "endangered

42 species" means any species or subspecies of **wildlife** **wild** **animal**



1       whose prospects of survival or recruitment within Indiana are in  
 2       jeopardy or are likely within the foreseeable future to become so due  
 3       to any of the following factors:

4               (1) The destruction, drastic modification, or severe curtailment  
 5               of the habitat of the ~~wildlife~~ **wild animal**.  
 6               (2) The overutilization of the ~~wildlife~~ **wild animal** for scientific,  
 7               commercial, or sporting purposes.  
 8               (3) The effect on the ~~wildlife~~ **wild animal** of disease, pollution,  
 9               or predation.  
 10               (4) Other natural or manmade factors affecting the prospects of  
 11               survival or recruitment within Indiana.  
 12               (5) Any combination of the factors described in subdivisions (1)  
 13               through (4).  
 14               (b) The term includes any species or subspecies of fish and  
 15               ~~wildlife~~ **wild animals** appearing on the United States list of endangered  
 16               and threatened ~~wildlife~~ **wild animals** (50 CFR 17.11).

17       SECTION 63. IC 14-22-34-3 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
 18       FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) As used in this  
 19       chapter, "management" means the collection and application of  
 20       biological information for the purposes of increasing the number of  
 21       individuals within species and populations of ~~wildlife~~ **wild animals** up  
 22       to the optimum carrying capacity of their habitat and maintaining those  
 23       levels.

24               (b) The term includes the following:  
 25               (1) The entire range of activities that constitute a modern  
 26               scientific resource program, including research, census, law  
 27               enforcement, habitat acquisition and improvement, and  
 28               education.  
 29               (2) When and where appropriate, the periodic or total protection  
 30               of species or populations as well as regulated taking.

31       SECTION 64. IC 14-22-34-5 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
 32       FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. As used in this  
 33       chapter, "take" means to:

34               (1) harass, hunt, capture, or kill; or  
 35               (2) attempt to harass, hunt, capture, or kill;  
 36               ~~wildlife~~ **a wild animal**.

37       SECTION 65. IC 14-22-34-6 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY  
 38       1, 2026]. Sec. 6. As used in this chapter, "wildlife" means:  
 39               (1) any wild mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, fish, mollusk,  
 40               crustacean, or other wild animal; or  
 41               (2) any part, product, egg or offspring, or the dead body or parts  
 42               of the wild animal.



1 SECTION 66. IC 14-22-34-10 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
 2 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10. On the basis of:

3 (1) investigations on nongame species required by section 7 of  
 4 this chapter; and

5 (2) other available scientific and commercial data;

6 and after consultation with other state ~~wildlife~~ **wild animal** agencies,  
 7 appropriate federal agencies, and other interested persons and  
 8 organizations, the director shall adopt rules to propose a list of those  
 9 species and subspecies of ~~wildlife~~ **wild animals** indigenous to Indiana  
 10 that are determined to be endangered in Indiana, giving the common  
 11 and scientific names by species and subspecies.

12 SECTION 67. IC 14-22-34-12 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
 13 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 12. (a) Except as  
 14 otherwise provided in this chapter, a person may not take, possess,  
 15 transport, export, process, sell or offer for sale, or ship, and a common  
 16 or contract carrier may not knowingly transport or receive for shipment  
 17 a species or subspecies of ~~wildlife~~ **wild animals** appearing on any of  
 18 the following:

19 (1) The list of ~~wildlife~~ **wild animals** indigenous to Indiana  
 20 determined to be endangered in Indiana under this chapter.

21 (2) The United States list of endangered ~~wildlife~~ **wild animals**  
 22 (50 CFR 17.11) as in effect on January 1, 1979.

23 (3) The list of endangered species developed under section 13 of  
 24 this chapter.

25 (b) A species or subspecies of ~~wildlife~~ **wild animals** appearing on  
 26 a list described in subsection (a) that:

27 (1) enters Indiana from another state or from a point outside the  
 28 territorial limits of the United States; and

29 (2) is transported across Indiana destined for a point beyond  
 30 Indiana;

31 may be so entered and transported without restriction in accordance  
 32 with the terms of a federal permit or permit issued under the laws of  
 33 another state.

34 (c) A person who:

35 (1) violates subsection (a) or (b); or

36 (2) fails to procure or violates the terms of a permit issued under:

37 (A) section 15 of this chapter; or

38 (B) section 16 of this chapter;

39 commits a Class A misdemeanor.

40 SECTION 68. IC 14-22-34-15 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
 41 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 15. The director may  
 42 permit, under the terms and conditions that are prescribed by rule, the



1 taking, possession, transportation, exportation, or shipment of species  
 2 or subspecies of **wildlife wild animals** that have been designated by  
 3 rule as in need of management or appear on the:

- 4 (1) state list of endangered species;
- 5 (2) United States list of endangered native fish and wildlife, as  
 6 amended;
- 7 (3) list of **wildlife wild animals** added under section 13 of this  
 8 chapter; or
- 9 (4) United States list of endangered foreign fish and **wildlife**,  
 10 **wild animals**, as modified after July 26, 1973;

11 for scientific, zoological, or educational purposes, for propagation in  
 12 captivity of the **wildlife**, **wild animals**, or for other special purposes.

13 SECTION 69. IC 14-22-34-18 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
 14 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 18. The provisions of  
 15 this chapter prohibiting the taking, possessing, transportation,  
 16 exporting, processing, sale, or offer to sell do not apply to **wildlife wild**  
 17 **animals** in the possession of a person in Indiana on July 26, 1973.

18 SECTION 70. IC 14-22-34-19 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE  
 19 JULY 1, 2026]. See: 19. The costs of the programs established under  
 20 this chapter may not be paid with money dedicated to fish and game  
 21 purposes. However, transfers may be made from money dedicated for  
 22 fish and game purposes to the nongame fund established under section  
 23 20 of this chapter.

24 SECTION 71. IC 14-22-34-20 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
 25 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 20. (a) The nongame  
 26 fund is established as a dedicated fund.

27 (b) The department shall administer the fund.

28 (c) In recognition of the importance of preserving the natural  
 29 heritage of Indiana, it is the intent of the general assembly to provide  
 30 a fund to be used exclusively for the protection, conservation,  
 31 management, and identification of nongame and endangered species of  
 32 **wildlife wild animals** primarily through the acquisition of the natural  
 33 habitat of the animals. The department may expend the money in the  
 34 fund exclusively for the preservation of nongame and endangered  
 35 species of **wildlife wild animals** under this chapter.

36 (d) Money in the fund does not revert to the state general fund at  
 37 the end of a state fiscal year. However, if the fund is abolished, the  
 38 money in the fund reverts to the state general fund.

39 SECTION 72. IC 14-22-34-21 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE  
 40 JULY 1, 2026]. See: 21. If the commission establishes entrance fees for  
 41 admission to fish and wildlife areas, the fees shall be deposited in the  
 42 fund. However, the holder of a hunting or fishing license under this



1       article may not be charged a fee for admission to fish and wildlife  
 2       areas.

3           SECTION 73. IC 14-23-1-3 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA  
 4       CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
 5       [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) The division of forestry  
 6       equipment and maintenance fund is established as a dedicated fund  
 7       for the purpose of defraying the costs of equipment and equipment  
 8       maintenance for the division of forestry. The department shall  
 9       administer the fund.

10          (b) The fund consists of the following:

11           (1) Fifty percent (50%) of the net proceeds from revenue  
 12       generated by timber harvests on state forests.

13           (2) Donations, gifts, grants, and money received from any  
 14       other source, including appropriations or transfers from  
 15       other funds or accounts.

16           (3) Investment earnings from any portion of the fund.

17          (c) The expenses of administering the fund must be paid from  
 18       the money in the fund.

19          (d) The treasurer of state shall invest the money in the fund  
 20       not currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same  
 21       manner as other public money may be invested.

22          (e) Money in the fund at the end of the fiscal year does not  
 23       revert to the state general fund.

24           SECTION 74. IC 14-23-6.6-7, AS ADDED BY P.L.124-2025,  
 25       SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 26       JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7. (a) Subject to subsection (b), a certified  
 27       prescribed burn manager who conducts the prescribed burning in  
 28       accordance with section 6 of this chapter is immune from civil liability  
 29       for harm caused by the:

30           (1) prescribed burn; or

31           (2) smoke produced by the prescribed burn.

32          (b) The immunity described in subsection (a) does not apply if the  
 33       harm was the result of the certified prescribed burn manager's:

34           (1) negligence; or

35           (2) willful and wanton misconduct.

36          (c) Subject to subsection (d), a landowner or landowner's agent  
 37       who conducts prescribed burning on the landowner's property in  
 38       accordance with section 6 of this chapter is immune from civil liability  
 39       for harm caused by the:

40           (1) prescribed burn; or

41           (2) smoke produced by the prescribed burn.

42          (d) The immunity described in subsection (c) does not apply if the



1       harm was the result of the:

2               (1) negligence of the landowner or the landowner's agent; or

3               (2) willful and wanton misconduct of the landowner or the

4               landowner's agent.

5       (e) The **division of forestry's department's** officers, agents, and

6       employees are immune from civil liability, in accordance with

7       IC 34-13-3, arising out of any of the following:

8               (1) Participation in planning, undertaking, or assisting with

9               prescribed burning.

10               (2) Administration of the prescribed burn certification program,

11               including revocation of prescribed burn certifications issued

12               under the program.

13       SECTION 75. IC 14-27-7.3-3.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA

14       CODE AS A **NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS**

15       [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3.5. **(a) If the condition of a**

16       **structure regulated by this chapter becomes so dangerous to the**

17       **safety of life or property that the department determines there is**

18       **not sufficient time to issue and enforce an order to:**

19               **(1) maintain;**

20               **(2) alter;**

21               **(3) repair;**

22               **(4) reconstruct;**

23               **(5) change the construction or location; or**

24               **(6) remove the structure;**

25       **in the manner required by this chapter, then the department may**

26       **immediately take the measures necessary to provide emergency**

27       **protection to life or property, or both, including the partial or**

28       **complete removal of the structure.**

29       **(b) The department may recover the cost of the emergency**

30       **measures taken under this section from the owner of the structure**

31       **by appropriate legal action.**

32       SECTION 76. IC 14-30-3-16 IS AMENDED TO READ AS

33       FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 16. **(a) The**

34       **commission, in coordination with the department, shall keep a**

35       **record of the commission's resolutions, transactions, and findings. This**

36       **record is a public record.**

37       **(b) The commission may adopt rules for the transaction of**

38       **business.**

39       SECTION 77. IC 14-30.5-2-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.92-2025,

40       SECTION 50, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE

41       JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. **(a) If one (1) county executive submits an**

42       **ordinance and a written request for recognition of a proposed**



1 watershed development commission under section 1(c) of this chapter,  
2 the natural resources commission shall decide under subsections (c)  
3 through (e) whether to recognize the proposed commission.

4 (b) If the county executives of two (2) or more counties submit  
5 ordinances and written requests under section 1(c) of this chapter for  
6 recognition of a single proposed watershed development commission  
7 empowered to act in a single designated watershed that includes areas  
8 within both or all of the counties:

9 (1) the natural resources commission may not decide whether to  
10 recognize the proposed commission unless the provisions of the  
11 ordinances submitted under section 1(c)(1) of this chapter are  
12 essentially identical in:

13 (A) identifying the designated watershed; and

14 (B) stating the purposes of the proposed commission; and  
15 (2) if the natural resources commission determines that the  
16 requirement set forth in subdivision (1) is met, the natural  
17 resources commission shall decide under subsections (c) through  
18 (e) whether to recognize the proposed commission.

19 (c) Before making a decision whether to recognize a proposed  
20 commission under this section, the **division of water, on behalf of the**  
21 natural resources commission, shall hold at least one (1) public hearing  
22 concerning the proposed commission in each county whose executive  
23 submitted an ordinance and a written request for recognition of the  
24 proposed commission under section 1(c) of this chapter. Any interested  
25 person attending a public hearing held under this subsection shall have  
26 the right to:

27 (1) address the natural resources commission; and

28 (2) provide written comments;

29 on whether the proposed commission should be established. The  
30 **division of water, on behalf of the** natural resources commission, may  
31 convene the meeting, record the testimony given, and receive the  
32 written comments provided.

33 (d) The **division of water, on behalf of the** natural resources  
34 commission, shall give notice of a public hearing to be held under  
35 subsection (c):

36 (1) by publication at least one (1) time in one (1) newspaper of  
37 general circulation in the county in which the hearing will be  
38 held; and

39 (2) through the website of the natural resources commission.

40 (e) In deciding whether to recognize a proposed commission, the  
41 natural resources commission shall determine the answer to each of the  
42 following questions:



1 (1) Are the purposes for which the proposed commission would  
2 be established, as set forth in the ordinance or ordinances under  
3 section 1(b)(3) of this chapter, within the purposes set forth in  
4 IC 14-30.5-3-1 for which a watershed development commission  
5 may be established?

6 (2) Do the purposes of the proposed commission, as set forth in  
7 the ordinance or ordinances under section 1(b)(3) of this chapter,  
8 correspond to legitimate flood damage reduction, drainage,  
9 storm water management, recreation, or water infrastructure  
10 needs of each county seeking establishment of the commission,  
11 as set forth under section 1(b)(4) of this chapter?

12 (3) Is it reasonable to expect that the establishment of a  
13 commission having powers under this article only in the county  
14 or counties from which the ordinance or ordinances were  
15 submitted under section 1(c)(1) of this chapter would effectively  
16 address the flood damage reduction, drainage, storm water  
17 management, recreation, or water infrastructure needs of each  
18 county that submitted an ordinance under section 1(c)(1) of this  
19 chapter?

20 (4) Is it reasonable to expect that the establishment of a  
21 commission that has powers under this article only in the area or  
22 areas inside the geographic boundaries of the designated  
23 watershed would effectively address the flood damage reduction,  
24 drainage, storm water management, recreation, or water  
25 infrastructure needs of each county that submitted an ordinance  
26 under section 1(c)(1) of this chapter?

27 (5) Is the territory of the proposed commission at least as large  
28 as the entirety of the same eight (8) digit U.S. Geological Survey  
29 hydrologic unit code?

30 (6) Has a regional watershed study or watershed management  
31 plan been conducted in consultation with the Indiana finance  
32 authority and the department of natural resources that assesses  
33 water use, water quality, drinking water systems, wastewater  
34 management systems, storm water management, flood control,  
35 drainage management, recreational uses, natural resources, and  
36 water infrastructure needs of the watershed of the proposed  
37 commission? If so, can the establishment of the proposed  
38 commission be expected to address the needs identified in that  
39 study or management plan?

40 (f) If:

41 (1) one (1) county's executive submits an ordinance and a  
42 request for recognition of a proposed commission under section

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1 (1(c) of this chapter; and  
 2 (2) the natural resources commission answers all of the questions  
 3 set forth in subsection (e) favorably;  
 4 the natural resources commission shall issue an order recognizing the  
 5 watershed development commission and recognizing the county  
 6 referred to in subdivision (1) as a member of the watershed  
 7 development commission.  
 8 (g) If:  
 9 (1) executives of two (2) or more counties submit ordinances and  
 10 requests for recognition of a proposed watershed development  
 11 commission under section 1(c) of this chapter; and  
 12 (2) the natural resources commission answers all of the questions  
 13 set forth in subsection (e) favorably with respect to at least one  
 14 (1) of the counties;  
 15 the natural resources commission shall issue an order recognizing the  
 16 watershed development commission and recognizing as a member of  
 17 the watershed development commission each county with respect to  
 18 which the natural resources commission answered all of the questions  
 19 set forth in subsection (e) favorably.  
 20 (h) If the natural resources commission does not answer all of the  
 21 questions set forth in subsection (e) favorably with respect to a county,  
 22 the natural resources commission shall:  
 23 (1) inform the executive of the county in writing of its decision;  
 24 and  
 25 (2) specify in the writing the reason or reasons for each  
 26 unfavorable answer.  
 27 (i) The action of the natural resources commission under this  
 28 section in declining to recognize a proposed watershed development  
 29 commission for a particular watershed does not preclude the later  
 30 submission of one (1) or more new ordinances and written requests for  
 31 recognition of a proposed watershed development commission for the  
 32 same designated watershed.  
 33 (j) An action of the natural resources commission under this  
 34 section declining to recognize a particular county as a member of a  
 35 watershed development commission does not preclude the later  
 36 submission of:  
 37 (1) another ordinance and written request under section 1(c) of  
 38 this chapter for recognition of the county as a member of another  
 39 proposed watershed development commission; or  
 40 (2) an ordinance and written request under section 4 or 5 of this  
 41 chapter proposing the county for membership in an established  
 42 watershed development commission.



1 SECTION 78. IC 14-30.5-2-6, AS AMENDED BY P.L.92-2025,  
 2 SECTION 51, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 3 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. (a) A county to which section 4 or 5 of this  
 4 chapter applies may not become a member of an existing watershed  
 5 development commission unless:

- 6 (1) the executives of all of the counties that are members of the  
 7 existing commission adopt ordinances accepting the county as a  
 8 member county of the existing commission; and  
 9 (2) the natural resources commission issues an order under this  
 10 section recognizing the county as a member county of the  
 11 existing commission.

12 (b) Before making a decision whether to recognize a county as a  
 13 member county of an existing commission under this section, the  
 14 natural resources commission shall hold at least one (1) public hearing  
 15 in the county concerning the proposed membership of the county in the  
 16 existing commission. Any interested person attending a public hearing  
 17 held under this subsection shall have the right to:

- 18 (1) address the natural resources commission; and  
 19 (2) provide written comments;

20 concerning the proposed membership of the county in the existing  
 21 commission. The **division of water, on behalf of the** natural resources  
 22 commission, may convene the meeting, record the testimony given, and  
 23 receive the written comments provided.

24 (c) The **division of water, on behalf of the** natural resources  
 25 commission, shall give notice of a public hearing to be held under  
 26 subsection (b):

- 27 (1) by publication at least one (1) time in one (1) newspaper of  
 28 general circulation in the county in which the hearing will be  
 29 held; and  
 30 (2) through the website of the natural resources commission.

31 (d) In deciding whether to recognize a county to which section 4  
 32 or 5 of this chapter applies as a member of an existing commission, the  
 33 natural resources commission shall determine the answer to each of the  
 34 following questions:

- 35 (1) Do the stated purposes for which the watershed development  
 36 commission was established correspond to the flood damage  
 37 reduction, drainage, storm water management, recreation, or  
 38 water infrastructure needs of the county, as stated under section  
 39 4(b)(3) or 5(b)(3) of this chapter?
- 40 (2) Is it reasonable to expect that the county's flood damage  
 41 reduction, drainage, storm water management, recreation, or  
 42 water infrastructure needs, as stated under section 4(b)(3) or



1                   5(b)(3) of this chapter, would be addressed more effectively if  
 2                   the county were a member of the existing commission than those  
 3                   needs have previously been addressed?

4                   (3) Would the county's membership in the existing commission  
 5                   diminish the effectiveness of the existing watershed  
 6                   development commission in addressing the flood damage  
 7                   reduction, drainage, storm water management, recreation, or  
 8                   water infrastructure needs of other member counties?

9                   (4) Is the territory of the proposed commission at least as large  
 10                  as the entirety of the same eight (8) digit U.S. Geological Survey  
 11                  hydrologic unit code?

12                  (5) Has a regional watershed study or watershed management  
 13                  plan been conducted in consultation with Indiana finance  
 14                  authority and the department of natural resources that assesses  
 15                  water use, water quality, drinking water systems, wastewater  
 16                  management systems, storm water management, flood control,  
 17                  drainage management, recreational uses, natural resources, and  
 18                  water infrastructure needs of the watershed of the proposed  
 19                  commission? If so, can the establishment of the proposed  
 20                  commission be expected to address the needs identified in that  
 21                  study or management plan?

22                  (e) If the natural resources commission answers all of the  
 23                  questions set forth in subsection (d) favorably, the natural resources  
 24                  commission shall issue an order recognizing the membership of the  
 25                  county in the existing commission.

26                  (f) If the natural resources commission does not answer all of the  
 27                  questions set forth in subsection (d) favorably, the natural resources  
 28                  commission shall inform the executive of the county to which section  
 29                  4 or 5 of this chapter applies in writing of its decision and specify in the  
 30                  writing the reason or reasons for each unfavorable answer.

31                  (g) An action of the natural resources commission under this  
 32                  section declining to recognize a county as a member of an established  
 33                  watershed development commission does not preclude the later  
 34                  submission of another ordinance under section 4 or 5 of this chapter  
 35                  seeking membership for the county in an existing commission.

36                  SECTION 79. IC 14-31-3-4 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY  
 37                  1, 2026]. **See. 4.** As used in this chapter, "harvest season" means the  
 38                  season established by the commission under section 14(b)(1) of this  
 39                  chapter.

40                  SECTION 80. IC 14-31-3-4.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA  
 41                  CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
 42                  [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 4.5. As used in this chapter,**



1       **"licensee" refers to a person issued any of the following valid  
2       licenses under this chapter:**

3           **(1) A ginseng dealer license.  
4           (2) A ginseng harvester license.**

5       SECTION 81. IC 14-31-3-5.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA  
6       CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
7       [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5.5. As used in this chapter,  
8       "valid license" refers to a license that:

9           **(1) is issued by the department; and  
10          (2) has not been suspended or revoked under section 11 of  
11          this chapter.**

12       SECTION 82. IC 14-31-3-7 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
13       FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7. (a) A person may  
14       not harvest, buy, or sell ginseng in Indiana without the proper  
15       license issued by the department under section 8 of this chapter.

16       (b) A person must have be issued a valid license issued by the  
17       department during the current selling season to be a ginseng dealer  
18       in Indiana.

19       (c) A person must be issued a valid license during the current  
20       harvest season to be a ginseng havester in Indiana.

21       SECTION 83. IC 14-31-3-8 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
22       FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 8. (a) To obtain a  
23       ginseng:

24           **(1) dealer's license, a person must: do the following:**  
25              **(1) (A) apply to the department for the license in the  
26               manner prescribed by the department; and  
27              (2) (B) pay a license fee of one two hundred dollars (\$100)  
28               (\$200) before August 15 August 30 of each year; or**

29           **(2) harvester's license, a person must apply to the  
30               department for the license in the manner prescribed by the  
31               department.**

32       There is no cost for a license issued by the department under  
33       subdivision (2).

34       (b) A ginseng dealer's license issued under subsection (a) is  
35       effective September 1 of each year and expires annually on August  
36       31 of the following calendar year.

37       (c) A ginseng harvester shall obtain written authorization from  
38       a real property owner to harvest ginseng on the owner's real  
39       property. Written authorization under this subsection must include  
40       the:

41           **(1) name, address, telephone number, and signature of the  
42               real property owner; and**



(2) start and end date the ginseng harvester is authorized to harvest ginseng on the real property.

Unless the end date of the written authorization specifies otherwise, the department must assume the end date of the authorization is the end of the current harvest season.

(d) A ginseng harvester shall provide the written authorization required under subsection (c) to the department upon request.

(e) Not later than ten (10) calendar days after each quarter, a ginseng dealer must submit all records regarding ginseng bought and sold for the quarter to the department via the ginseng portal.

(f) Not later than thirty (30) calendar days after the last day of a selling season, a ginseng dealer must submit to the department via the online ginseng portal a summary of all ginseng bought and sold by the ginseng dealer during the selling season. The summary must also contain the following information in the manner required by the department:

(1) The name, address, and license number of each person who bought ginseng from the dealer or sold ginseng to the dealer.

(2) The type, weight, and condition of the ginseng, wild simulated or artificially propagated, that was bought or sold.  
(3) The number and date of shipments and the county from which ginseng is taken by a harvester.

SECTION 84. IC 14-31-3-9 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 9. (a) As used in this section, "selling season" means the season established by the commission under section 14(b)(2) of this chapter. The selling season for ginseng begins September 1 each year and ends March 31 of the following calendar year.

(b) Each ginseng dealer shall submit a summary of all ginseng purchased and sold by the ginseng dealer during the selling season to the department within thirty (30) days of the last day of the selling season. The summary must also contain other information and be prepared in the manner required by the department by rule. Except as otherwise provided under this section, a person may not buy or sell ginseng except during the selling season under subsection (a).

(c) A ginseng dealer must receive a certification from the department under this section to ship ginseng for the first time to the following:

### (1) Another ginseng dealer

(2) A ginseng exporter.

**(3) For export from the ginseng dealer.**

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(d) A ginseng dealer may retain ginseng for sale that is lawfully acquired during the selling season under subsection (a) if the ginseng dealer obtains from the department a certificate of ginseng shipment issued within the same selling season as the transaction took place.

(e) A ginseng dealer must complete a certificate of ginseng shipment under subsection (d). The department must:

- (1) examine the certificate of ginseng shipment;
- (2) examine the ginseng shipment; and
- (3) if approved, certify and date the certificate via the ginseng portal.

(f) The three (3) certificates of ginseng shipment must be retained as follows:

- (1) One (1) copy must be retained by the department.
- (2) One (1) copy must accompany the ginseng shipment.
- (3) One (1) copy must be retained by the ginseng dealer for the ginseng dealer's records.

SECTION 85. IC 14-31-3-10 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10. (a) Wild ginseng may not be harvested except during the harvest season.

(b) Ginseng harvested in Indiana may not be possessed by a ginseng harvester during the part of a year established under section 14(b)(3) of this chapter, after the selling season unless the department gives written authorization. otherwise:

(c) Ginseng harvested in Indiana may not be bought, sold, or possessed by a ginseng dealer during the part of a year established under section 14(b)(4) of this chapter, unless the department gives written authorization otherwise.

(d) (c) Ginseng that is harvested in Indiana may not be taken from Indiana without written authorization from the department.

(d) A ginseng dealer must maintain true and complete records of the ginseng dealer's purchases and sales of ginseng. The department may, at a reasonable time, inspect the:

(1) records; and  
(2) business premises;  
of the ginseng dealer.

(e) A ginseng dealer or ginseng harvester may not misrepresent in:

- (1) a report;
- (2) a log;
- (3) a certificate; or
- (4) any other record required under this chapter;

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1       **that a substance is ginseng if the ginseng dealer or ginseng  
2       harvester knows, or reasonably should know, that all or a portion  
3       of the substance is a substance other than ginseng.**

4       **(f) A ginseng dealer or ginseng harvester may not knowingly  
5       include false or incorrect information in:**

- 6       **(1) a document;**
- 7       **(2) a log;**
- 8       **(3) a certificate; or**
- 9       **(4) any other record required under this chapter.**

10      **If a ginseng dealer or ginseng harvester determines that  
11       information under this subsection is incorrect, the ginseng dealer  
12       shall immediately inform the department of the correct  
13       information.**

14      SECTION 86. IC 14-31-3-11, AS AMENDED BY P.L.92-2025,  
15      SECTION 52, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
16       JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 11. **(a) The department may suspend or revoke  
17       a license issued under this chapter if the licensee:**

- 18       **(1) violates any provision of this chapter;**
- 19       **(2) fails to report the records required under this chapter in  
20       the manner specified by the department;**
- 21       **(3) fails to submit the information required to be submitted  
22       to the department:**
  - 23           **(A) quarterly; or**
  - 24           **(B) annually;**
- 25       **(4) has a suspended or revoked license to harvest or deal  
26       ginseng in another state; or**
- 27       **(5) is prohibited from harvesting or dealing ginseng in  
28       another state or any reason.**

29       **(a) (b) The department may revoke or suspend the license of a  
30       person who violates this chapter. All proceedings under this chapter to  
31       revoke or suspend a license are subject to IC 4-21.5. chapter for:**

- 32       **(1) any period of time for which the license was issued; or**
- 33       **(2) a period not longer than five (5) years.**

34       **(b) If a court determines that a person has violated this chapter, the  
35       court may, in addition to any other penalty, do the following:**

- 36       **(1) Suspend or revoke the license of the person for any period of  
37       time for which the license was issued;**
- 38       **(2) Order that a license not be issued to the person for a period  
39       not longer than five (5) years.**

40      SECTION 87. IC 14-31-3-12 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
41      FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 12. **(a) The following  
42       definitions apply throughout this section:**



(1) "Internode" means a section containing a stem scar.  
(2) "Prong" means a true compound leaf, including five (5) leaflets that consist of three (3) large leaflets and two (2) small leaflets.

(b) The department may carry out scientific research ~~or for~~ for ginseng to determine the following:

(1) The distribution and abundance of ginseng throughout Indiana.

(2) The effects of current and future harvesting and cultivation practices on the survival of ginseng in Indiana.

(c) The ginseng harvest season begins September 1 and ends December 31 of each year.

(d) A person may not harvest or possess harvested wild ginseng unless the:

- (1) person is issued a valid license to harvest ginseng;
- (2) ginseng is harvested only during the harvest season; and
- (3) ginseng plant to be harvested meets the following conditions:

**(A) Each individual ginseng plant demonstrates at least one (1) of the following:**

(i) At least three (3) prongs and a flowering or fruiting stalk. Except as provided in clause (B), the entire stalk and leaves must be retained with the plant until the plant is taken to the ginseng harvester's residence or place of business.

(ii) At least four (4) internodes on the rhizome.

**(B) Mature fruits and any seeds from a harvested plant must be planted in the vicinity where the ginseng plant is taken in a manner that encourages the germination and growth of new plants.**

SECTION 88. IC 14-31-3-13 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. See: 13. The department may establish ginseng harvesting quotas based on the results of research and data collection.

SECTION 89. IC 14-31-3-14 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 14. (a) The department may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 that are necessary to carry out to implement this chapter.

(b) The commission shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to do the following:

#### (1) Establish the harvest season:

## (2) Establish the setting season.

(3) Establish the part of a year when ginseng harvested in



1 Indiana may not be possessed by a ginseng harvester without  
 2 written authorization from the department.

3 (4) Establish the part of a year when ginseng harvested in  
 4 Indiana may not be bought, sold, or possessed by a ginseng  
 5 dealer without written authorization from the department.

6 **(b) Information contained in the ginseng portal concerning**  
 7 **trade secrets or privileged commercial or financial information**  
 8 **relating to the competitive rights of the person or entity intending**  
 9 **to explore the described area that is submitted to the director**  
 10 **under this chapter is confidential and not available for public**  
 11 **examination.**

12 SECTION 90. IC 14-31-3-15, AS AMENDED BY P.L.111-2016,  
 13 SECTION 40, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 14 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 15. A ginseng dealer person who harvests, buys,  
 15 or sells ginseng without a valid license issued under section 8 of this  
 16 chapter, or who otherwise violates this chapter commits:

17 (1) purchases or sells ginseng for resale or exportation without  
 18 a license; or  
 19 (2) obtains a license because of a false or an incorrect statement;  
 20 commits  
 21 (1) a Class C misdemeanor for a first offense;  
 22 (2) a Class B misdemeanor for a second offense; or  
 23 (3) a Class A misdemeanor for a third offense and each  
 24 subsequent offense.

25 SECTION 91. IC 14-31-3-16 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY  
 26 1, 2026]. Sec. 16. A person who harvests ginseng out of a harvest  
 27 season in violation of section 10 of this chapter commits a Class B  
 28 misdemeanor.

29 SECTION 92. IC 14-31-3-17 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY  
 30 1, 2026]. Sec. 17. A person who possesses unprocessed ginseng out of  
 31 a harvest season in violation of section 10 of this chapter commits a  
 32 Class B misdemeanor.

33 SECTION 93. IC 14-31-3-18 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY  
 34 1, 2026]. Sec. 18. A person who harvests ginseng in an amount greater  
 35 than a quota established under section 13 of this chapter commits a  
 36 Class B infraction.

37 SECTION 94. IC 14-31-3-19 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY  
 38 1, 2026]. Sec. 19. A ginseng dealer who buys, sells, or possesses  
 39 ginseng in violation of section 10 of this chapter commits a Class B  
 40 misdemeanor.

41 SECTION 95. IC 14-31-3-20 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY  
 42 1, 2026]. Sec. 20. A person who, without written authorization from the



1 department, takes or sends from Indiana ginseng that is harvested in  
 2 Indiana in violation of section 9 of this chapter commits a Class A  
 3 misdemeanor.

4 SECTION 96. IC 14-31-3-21 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY  
 5 1, 2026]. See: 21: A person who knowingly or intentionally:

- 6 (1) takes or sends from Indiana ginseng that was harvested in  
 another state for export from the United States; or
- 7 (2) receives ginseng that was harvested in another state for  
 export from the United States;

10 without written authorization to export the ginseng under the laws of  
 11 the state in which the ginseng was harvested commits a Class A  
 12 misdemeanor.

13 SECTION 97. IC 14-33-1-1 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
 14 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) A conservancy  
 15 district may be established for any of the following purposes:

- 16 (1) Flood prevention and control.
- 17 (2) Improving drainage.
- 18 (3) Providing for irrigation.
- 19 (4) Providing water supply, including treatment and distribution,  
 for domestic, industrial, and public use.
- 20 (5) Providing for the collection, treatment, and disposal of  
 sewage and other liquid wastes.
- 21 (6) Developing forests, wildlife areas, parks, and recreational  
 facilities if feasible in connection with beneficial water  
 management.
- 22 (7) Preventing the loss of topsoil from injurious water erosion.
- 23 (8) Storage of water for augmentation of stream flow.
- 24 (9) Operation, maintenance, and improvement of:
  - 25 (A) a work of improvement for water based recreational  
 purposes; or
  - 26 (B) other work of improvement that could have been built  
 for any other purpose authorized by this section.

33 **(10) Improve water quality.**

34 (b) These purposes may be accomplished by cooperating with  
 35 federal and state agencies whose programs are designed to accomplish  
 36 any of the purposes of the district.

37 SECTION 98. IC 14-33-2-19 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
 38 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 19. (a) In determining  
 39 the facts, the **division of water, on behalf of the** commission, shall **do**  
 40 **the following:**

- 41 (1) Hold hearings at which the ~~commission~~ **division of water**  
 shall give any interested person the right to be heard.



4 (3) The commission shall Choose the county seat.

9 SECTION 99. IC 14-33-2-22 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
10 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 22. The commission,  
11 **in coordination with the department**, shall make a report of the  
12 commission's findings to the court, including findings on the territorial  
13 limits of the proposed district. The commission shall make this report  
14 within one hundred twenty (120) days after the petition is referred to  
15 the commission, unless the commission requests and receives approval  
16 from the court for additional periods of thirty (30) days each.

17 SECTION 100. IC 14-38-1-13, AS AMENDED BY P.L.118-2009,  
18 SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
19 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 13. (a) All proceeds derived:

(1) from or by virtue or by reason of a permit or lease executed or issued under this chapter; or

34 (d) The proceeds from royalties or other compensation paid for  
35 minerals taken from beneath the navigable waters of the Wabash River  
36 (as defined in IC 14-13-6-4) shall **must** be deposited **as follows:**

41 SECTION 101. IC 25-36.5-1-3, AS AMENDED BY  
42 P.L.155-2015, SECTION 27, IS AMENDED TO READ AS



1       FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) Every person  
 2       registered as a timber buyer shall file with the department an effective  
 3       surety bond issued by a corporate surety authorized to engage in the  
 4       business of executing surety bonds in Indiana.

5       (b) Instead of the bond required by subsection (a), the department  
 6       may accept security in cash or a certificate of deposit under terms  
 7       established by rule.

8       (c) The security required under subsection (a) or (b) shall be made  
 9       payable upon demand to the director, subject to this chapter, for the use  
 10      and benefit of the people of Indiana and for the use and benefit of any  
 11      timber grower from whom the applicant purchased and who is not paid  
 12      by the applicant or for the use and benefit of any timber grower whose  
 13      timber has been cut by the applicant or registrant or the applicant's or  
 14      registrant's agents, and who has not been paid for the timber.

15      (d) The security required under subsection (a) or (b) shall be in the  
 16      principal amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for an applicant who  
 17      paid timber growers ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or less for timber  
 18      during the immediate preceding year, and an additional one hundred  
 19      dollars (\$100) for each additional one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or  
 20      fraction thereof paid to timber growers for timber purchased during the  
 21      preceding year. However:

22       (1) before January 1, 2017, the security required may not be  
 23       more than twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000); and

24       (2) after December 31, 2016, the security required may not be  
 25       more than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000).

26       If an applicant has not previously engaged in business as a timber  
 27       buyer, the amount of the bond shall be based on the estimated dollar  
 28       amount to be paid by the timber buyer to timber growers for timber  
 29       purchased during the next succeeding year, as set forth in the  
 30       application.

31       (e) The security required under subsection (a) or (b) shall not be  
 32       canceled or altered during the period for which the certificate to the  
 33       applicant was issued except upon at least sixty (60) days notice in  
 34       writing to the department.

35       (f) Security shall be in a form and contain the terms and conditions  
 36       as may be approved from time to time by the director, be conditioned  
 37       to secure an honest cutting and accounting for timber purchased by the  
 38       registrant, secure payment to the timber growers, and insure the timber  
 39       growers against all fraudulent acts of the registrant in the purchase and  
 40       cutting of the timber of this state.

41       (g) If a timber buyer fails to pay when due any amount due a  
 42       timber grower for timber purchased, or fails to pay legally determined



1        damages for timber wrongfully cut by a timber buyer or the timber  
 2        buyer's agent, or commits any violation of this chapter, an adjudicative  
 3        proceeding on the bond for forfeiture may be commenced, and notice  
 4        of the proceeding shall be provided, under IC 4-21.5-3-6. A surety or  
 5        person in possession of the security provided under subsection (a) or  
 6        (b) is entitled to notification of the proceeding. If a final agency action  
 7        is entered by the department under this subsection against the timber  
 8        buyer, the surety or other person in possession of the security shall  
 9        deliver the amount of the security identified in the order. A proceeding  
 10      for forfeiture of a timber buyer's bond under IC 4-21.5 is the exclusive  
 11      remedy under law for the forfeiture of the bond.

12      (h) An owner of property seeking a preliminary injunction or  
 13      restraining order against a person, corporation, or other entity to  
 14      prevent or stop the wrongful cutting of timber on the owner's property  
 15      is relieved of the requirement to post a bond or other security with the  
 16      court as a prerequisite to the issuance of the preliminary injunction or  
 17      restraining order. However, this subsection does not apply to a property  
 18      owner who seeks a preliminary injunction or restraining order to  
 19      prevent or stop alleged wrongful cutting by a timber cutter or timber  
 20      buyer with whom the property owner had contracted for the cutting or  
 21      sale of timber.

22      **(i) The department may use a bond paid under this section to:**  
 23      **(1) recover the costs of damage associated with the issued  
 24      license; or**  
 25      **(2) ensure performance of the contract.**

26      **Timber license bonds may be used to meet performance bonding  
 27      regarding buying cut logs from the timber lands of the department.**

28      SECTION 102. IC 25-36.5-1-10, AS AMENDED BY  
 29      P.L.158-2013, SECTION 292, IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
 30      FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10. **(a)** A person who:

31      **(1) engages in business as a timber buyer without securing a  
 32      registration or in violation of this chapter; or**  
 33      **(2) refuses to permit inspection of the person's premises, books,  
 34      accounts, or records as provided in this chapter;**

35      commits a Class A misdemeanor. However, the offense is a Level 6  
 36      felony if the person has a prior unrelated conviction for an offense  
 37      under this section.

38      **(b) A person who violates this chapter shall repay the cost of  
 39      damages not covered by the bond paid by the person. If a person  
 40      under this subsection does not repay the cost of damages in full, the  
 41      person is ineligible to purchase timber from the department for at  
 42      least one (1) year.**



1           SECTION 103. IC 25-39-3-5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA  
2       CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
3       [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. (a) An applicant may request  
4       informal review of a failed written or practical examination from  
5       the division of water of the department.

6           (b) An applicant requesting an informal review under  
7       subsection (a) must submit the request for informal review with the  
8       director of the division of water, or the director's designee, not  
9       later than the earlier of:

10           (1) fifteen (15) days after the applicant is notified of the  
11       failing score, if the notification of the failing score includes:

12           (A) the address of the person to whom the request under  
13       this subsection must be directed; and

14           (B) a statement that the request for informal review  
15       must be made not later than fifteen (15) days after the  
16       applicant receives the notice; or

17           (2) ninety (90) days if the applicant is notified of the failing  
18       score, but the notice does not include the information  
19       described in subdivision (1).

20           SECTION 104. IC 25-39-3-6 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA  
21       CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
22       [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. (a) A sponsor of a continuing  
23       education program, or licensee who attends a continuing education  
24       program, may request informal review of a decision by the  
25       department to:

26           (1) refuse to authorize credits; or

27           (2) authorize fewer credits than the sponsor or licensee  
28       believes should be authorized.

29           (b) A person to whom subsection (a) applies must request  
30       informal review under this section before the continuing education  
31       program is presented.

32           (c) After the informal review under this section, the director,  
33       or the director's designee, may take an action if the department has  
34       sufficient evidence to determine a continuing education program:

35           (1) includes information significant to the governing statute  
36       or rule that was not previously known to the department; or

37           (2) provides innovative or specialized instruction to a limited  
38       constituency with extraordinary educational needs that are  
39       likely to enhance the interests protected or promoted by the  
40       governing statute or rule.

41           SECTION 105. IC 35-52-14-27.8 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE  
42       JULY 1, 2026]. Sec. 27.8. IC 14-22-32-2 defines a crime concerning

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1 game birds and exotic mammals.

2 SECTION 106. IC 35-52-14-39 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE  
3 JULY 1, 2026]. See: 39. ~~IC 14-31-3-16~~ defines a crime concerning  
4 nature preserves.

5 SECTION 107. IC 35-52-14-40 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE  
6 JULY 1, 2026]. See: 40. ~~IC 14-31-3-17~~ defines a crime concerning  
7 nature preserves.

8 SECTION 108. IC 35-52-14-41 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE  
9 JULY 1, 2026]. See: 41. ~~IC 14-31-3-19~~ defines a crime concerning  
10 nature preserves.

11 SECTION 109. IC 35-52-14-42 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE  
12 JULY 1, 2026]. See: 42. ~~IC 14-31-3-20~~ defines a crime concerning  
13 nature preserves.

14 SECTION 110. IC 35-52-14-43 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE  
15 JULY 1, 2026]. See: 43. ~~IC 14-31-3-21~~ defines a crime concerning  
16 nature preserves.

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