

SENATE BILL No. 224

AM022406 has been incorporated into introduced printing.

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 IC 14-8-2-57 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,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 **(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

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3 SECTION 15. IC 14-10-2-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.93-2024,
4 SECTION 120, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
5 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. (a) The department may adopt
6 rules under IC 4-22-2 to carry out the duties of the department under
7 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 14-22-3 and 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 14-25-13.
- (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.

34 (c) A person who violates:

39 to carry out a provision described in subsection (a) commits a Class C
40 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,

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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.**
- (5) (2) The chief executive officer of the Indiana state museum and historic sites corporation established by IC 4-37-2-1.**
- (6) (3) The chairperson of the board of directors of the natural resources foundation.**



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

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

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) Repetition 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

(B) erect, alter, or repair an existing structure; for an incidental or existing use that would not impact the burial 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,

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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:

(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**, or accessing or departing from a trail, a greenway, or another
34 similar area, or for any other purpose (other than the purposes
35 described in section 2.5 of this chapter) ~~does not have an assurance that~~
36 ~~the premises are safe for the purpose: is subject to the limitations of~~
37 ~~liability granted to the owner of the premises described in~~
38 ~~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 or damage 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 (1) **Business invitees in for-profit establishments.**

17 (2) The attractive nuisance doctrine.

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

21 (h) **This section does not apply to a parcel of land assessed as
 22 residential land.**

23 SECTION 55. IC 14-22-10-2.5 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 24 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2.5. (a) A person who
 25 goes upon or through the premises, including 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 hunting, fishing, trapping, or preparing to hunt, fish,
 33 or trap, does not have an assurance that the premises are safe for that
 34 purpose.

35 (b) The owner of the premises does not:

36 (1) assume responsibility; or

37 (2) incur liability;

38 for an injury to a person or property caused by an act or failure to act
 39 of other persons using the premises.

40 (c) This section does not affect Indiana case law on the liability of
 41 owners or possessors of premises with respect to the following:

42 (1) Business invitees in commercial establishments.



(2) The attractive nuisance doctrine.

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

(e) This section does not apply to a parcel of land assessed as residential land.

SECTION 56. IC 14-22-10-5 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. The title to a wild animal illegally taken or accidentally killed in violation of this article or IC 14-2 (before its repeal) does not vest in the taker of the wild animal, but remains in the state. The director ~~shall~~ **may** do the following:

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

(2) Sell or dispose of the wild animal.

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

SECTION 57. IC 14-22-11-19 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. Sec. 19. (a) The department may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to establish and operate a lottery system to allow an individual to purchase a license to take more than one (1) antlered deer within a one (1) year period.

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

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

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

(3) A provision stating that the drawing for the lottery under this section will be held on December 15.

(4) A provision stating that there will be only one hundred (100) licenses awarded under the lottery.

(5) A provision stating that the season for the deer hunt for which a license is awarded under the lottery is the first week of January.

SECTION 58. IC 14-22-12-2 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. Sec. 2: Except for a license sold under IC 14-22-31-8, the department shall use the following to increase the upland game bird population in Indiana:

(1) Four dollars (\$4) from the cost of every nonresident license to hunt any game for any period in any manner.

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



1 to hunt deer for any period in any manner.

2 SECTION 59. IC 14-22-12-3 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY
 3 1, 2026]. See: 3. The department shall deposit in the fish and wildlife
 4 fund twenty dollars (\$20) from the cost of every nonresident license to
 5 hunt deer for any time in any manner. The department shall transfer the
 6 revenue deposited under this section from the fish and wildlife fund to
 7 the deer research and management fund. However, a transfer is not
 8 required if the budget agency finds that it would reduce the balance in
 9 the fish and wildlife fund to less than three million dollars (\$3,000,000)
 10 at the end of the state fiscal year.

11 SECTION 60. IC 14-22-15.5-7 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE
 12 JULY 1, 2026]. See: 7. An individual who acts as a hunting guide
 13 without a hunting guide license in violation of section 2 of this chapter
 14 commits a Class B infraction.

15 SECTION 61. IC 14-22-16-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.155-2015,
 16 SECTION 16, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 17 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. A person desiring to possess in Indiana at one
 18 (1) time more than:

19 (1) five hundred (500) **thousand (5,000)** live minnows; or
 20 (2) five hundred (500) **thousand (5,000)** live crayfish;
 21 not intended for the purpose of engaging in the business of selling or
 22 bartering live minnows or crayfish for bait must procure a permit to
 23 possess the minnows or crayfish.

24 SECTION 62. IC 14-22-32 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY
 25 1, 2026]. (Game Bird and Exotic Mammal Regulation).

26 SECTION 63. IC 14-22-34-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.7-2015,
 27 SECTION 40, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 28 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) As used in this chapter, "endangered
 29 species" means any species or subspecies of ~~wildlife~~ **wild animal**
 30 whose prospects of survival or recruitment within Indiana are in
 31 jeopardy or are likely within the foreseeable future to become so due
 32 to any of the following factors:

33 (1) The destruction, drastic modification, or severe curtailment
 34 of the habitat of the ~~wildlife~~ **wild animal**.
 35 (2) The overutilization of the ~~wildlife~~ **wild animal** for scientific,
 36 commercial, or sporting purposes.
 37 (3) The effect on the ~~wildlife~~ **wild animal** of disease, pollution,
 38 or predation.
 39 (4) Other natural or manmade factors affecting the prospects of
 40 survival or recruitment within Indiana.
 41 (5) Any combination of the factors described in subdivisions (1)
 42 through (4).



4 SECTION 64. IC 14-22-34-3 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
5 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) As used in this
6 chapter, "management" means the collection and application of
7 biological information for the purposes of increasing the number of
8 individuals within species and populations of ~~wildlife~~ **wild animals** up
9 to the optimum carrying capacity of their habitat and maintaining those
10 levels.

11 (b) The term includes the following:

12 (1) The entire range of activities that constitute a modern
13 scientific resource program, including research, census, law
14 enforcement, habitat acquisition and improvement, and
15 education.

16 (2) When and where appropriate, the periodic or total protection
17 of species or populations as well as regulated taking.

18 SECTION 65. IC 14-22-34-5 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
19 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. As used in this
20 chapter, "take" means to:

21 (1) harass, hunt, capture, or kill; or
22 (2) attempt to harass, hunt, capture, or kill

23 **wildlife: a wild animal.**
24 SECTION 66. IC 14-22-34-6 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY
25 1, 2026]. *See & As used in this chapter, "wildlife" means*

1, 2020]. Sec. 6. As used in this chapter, "wildlife" means:

- (1) any wild mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, fish, mollusk, crustacean, or other wild animal; or
- (2) any part, product, egg or offspring, or the dead body or parts of the wild animal.

30 SECTION 67. IC 14-22-34-10 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
31 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10. On the basis of:

31 FOLLOWING [REDACTED] SECTION 7, 2008]. Section 7 of this chapter shall be:

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

34 (2) other available scientific and commercial data;

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

41 SECTION 68. IC 14-22-34-12 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
42 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 12. (a) Except as

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1 otherwise provided in this chapter, a person may not take, possess,
 2 transport, export, process, sell or offer for sale, or ship, and a common
 3 or contract carrier may not knowingly transport or receive for shipment
 4 a species or subspecies of ~~wildlife~~ **wild animals** appearing on any of
 5 the following:

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

8 (2) The United States list of endangered **wildlife wild animals**
 9 (50 CFR 17.11) as in effect on January 1, 1979.

10 (3) The list of endangered species developed under section 13 of
 11 this chapter.

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

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

16 (2) is transported across Indiana destined for a point beyond
 17 Indiana;

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

21 (c) A person who:

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

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

24 (A) section 15 of this chapter; or

25 (B) section 16 of this chapter;

26 commits a Class A misdemeanor.

27 SECTION 69. IC 14-22-34-15 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 28 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 15. The director may
 29 permit, under the terms and conditions that are prescribed by rule, the
 30 taking, possession, transportation, exportation, or shipment of species
 31 or subspecies of **wildlife wild animals** that have been designated by
 32 rule as in need of management or appear on the:

33 (1) state list of endangered species;

34 (2) United States list of endangered native fish and wildlife, as
 35 amended;

36 (3) list of **wildlife wild animals** added under section 13 of this
 37 chapter; or

38 (4) United States list of endangered foreign fish and **wildlife**,
 39 **wild animals**, as modified after July 26, 1973;

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

42 SECTION 70. IC 14-22-34-18 IS AMENDED TO READ AS



1 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 18. The provisions of
 2 this chapter prohibiting the taking, possessing, transportation,
 3 exporting, processing, sale, or offer to sell do not apply to ~~wildlife~~ **wild**
 4 **animals** in the possession of a person in Indiana on July 26, 1973.

5 SECTION 71. IC 14-22-34-19 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE
 6 JULY 1, 2026]. See. 19. ~~The costs of the programs established under
 7 this chapter may not be paid with money dedicated to fish and game
 8 purposes. However, transfers may be made from money dedicated for
 9 fish and game purposes to the nongame fund established under section
 10 20 of this chapter.~~

11 SECTION 72. IC 14-22-34-20 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 12 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 20. (a) The nongame
 13 fund is established as a dedicated fund.

14 (b) The department shall administer the fund.

15 (c) In recognition of the importance of preserving the natural
 16 heritage of Indiana, it is the intent of the general assembly to provide
 17 a fund to be used exclusively for the protection, conservation,
 18 management, and identification of nongame and endangered species of
 19 ~~wildlife~~ **wild animals** primarily through the acquisition of the natural
 20 habitat of the animals. The department may expend the money in the
 21 fund exclusively for the preservation of nongame and endangered
 22 species of ~~wildlife~~ **wild animals** under this chapter.

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

26 SECTION 73. IC 14-22-34-21 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE
 27 JULY 1, 2026]. See. 21. ~~If the commission establishes entrance fees for
 28 admission to fish and wildlife areas, the fees shall be deposited in the
 29 fund. However, the holder of a hunting or fishing license under this
 30 article may not be charged a fee for admission to fish and wildlife
 31 areas.~~

32 SECTION 74. IC 14-23-1-3 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
 33 CODE AS A **NEW SECTION** TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 34 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) **The division of forestry**
 35 **equipment and maintenance fund** is established as a dedicated fund
 36 **for the purpose of defraying the costs of equipment and equipment**
 37 **maintenance for the division of forestry.** The department shall
 38 administer the fund.

39 (b) **The fund consists of the following:**

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

42 (2) **Donations, gifts, grants, and money received from any**



1 **other source, including appropriations or transfers from**
 2 **other funds or accounts.**

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

4 **(c) The expenses of administering the fund must be paid from**
 5 **the money in the fund.**

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

9 **(e) Money in the fund at the end of the fiscal year does not**
 10 **revert to the state general fund.**

11 SECTION 75. IC 14-23-6.6-7, AS ADDED BY P.L.124-2025,
 12 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 13 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7. (a) Subject to subsection (b), a certified
 14 prescribed burn manager who conducts the prescribed burning in
 15 accordance with section 6 of this chapter is immune from civil liability
 16 for harm caused by the:

17 (1) prescribed burn; or
 18 (2) smoke produced by the prescribed burn.

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

21 (1) negligence; or
 22 (2) willful and wanton misconduct.

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

27 (1) prescribed burn; or
 28 (2) smoke produced by the prescribed burn.

29 (d) The immunity described in subsection (c) does not apply if the
 30 harm was the result of the:

31 (1) negligence of the landowner or the landowner's agent; or
 32 (2) willful and wanton misconduct of the landowner or the
 33 landowner's agent.

34 (e) The ~~division of forestry's department's~~ officers, agents, and
 35 employees are immune from civil liability, in accordance with
 36 IC 34-13-3, arising out of any of the following:

37 (1) Participation in planning, undertaking, or assisting with
 38 prescribed burning.

39 (2) Administration of the prescribed burn certification program,
 40 including revocation of prescribed burn certifications issued
 41 under the program.

42 SECTION 76. IC 14-27-7.3-3.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA



1 CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 2 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3.5. **(a) If the condition of a**
 3 **structure regulated by this chapter becomes so dangerous to the**
 4 **safety of life or property that the department determines there is**
 5 **not sufficient time to issue and enforce an order to:**

6 **(1) maintain;**
 7 **(2) alter;**
 8 **(3) repair;**
 9 **(4) reconstruct;**
 10 **(5) change the construction or location; or**
 11 **(6) remove the structure;**

12 **in the manner required by this chapter, then the department may**
 13 **immediately take the measures necessary to provide emergency**
 14 **protection to life or property, or both, including the partial or**
 15 **complete removal of the structure.**

16 **(b) The department may recover the cost of the emergency**
 17 **measures taken under this section from the owner of the structure**
 18 **by appropriate legal action.**

19 SECTION 77. IC 14-30-3-16 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 20 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 16. **(a) The**
 21 **commission, in coordination with the department, shall keep a**
 22 **record of the commission's resolutions, transactions, and findings. This**
 23 **record is a public record.**

24 **(b) The commission may adopt rules for the transaction of**
 25 **business.**

26 SECTION 78. IC 14-30.5-2-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.92-2025,
 27 SECTION 50, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 28 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. **(a) If one (1) county executive submits an**
 29 **ordinance and a written request for recognition of a proposed**
 30 **watershed development commission under section 1(c) of this chapter,**
 31 **the natural resources commission shall decide under subsections (c)**
 32 **through (e) whether to recognize the proposed commission.**

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

38 **(1) the natural resources commission may not decide whether to**
 39 **recognize the proposed commission unless the provisions of the**
 40 **ordinances submitted under section 1(c)(1) of this chapter are**
 41 **essentially identical in:**

42 **(A) identifying the designated watershed; and**



6 (c) Before making a decision whether to recognize a proposed
7 commission under this section, the **division of water, on behalf of the**
8 natural resources commission, shall hold at least one (1) public hearing
9 concerning the proposed commission in each county whose executive
10 submitted an ordinance and a written request for recognition of the
11 proposed commission under section 1(c) of this chapter. Any interested
12 person attending a public hearing held under this subsection shall have
13 the right to:

14 (1) address the natural resources commission; and
15 (2) provide written comments;

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

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

23 (1) by publication at least one (1) time in one (1) newspaper of
24 general circulation in the county in which the hearing will be
25 held; and

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

27 (e) In deciding whether to recognize a proposed commission, the
28 natural resources commission shall determine the answer to each of the
29 following questions:

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

35 (2) Do the purposes of the proposed commission, as set forth in
36 the ordinance or ordinances under section 1(b)(3) of this chapter,
37 correspond to legitimate flood damage reduction, drainage,
38 storm water management, recreation, or water infrastructure
39 needs of each county seeking establishment of the commission,
40 as set forth under section 1(b)(4) of this chapter?

41 (3) Is it reasonable to expect that the establishment of a
42 commission having powers under this article only in the county

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1 or counties from which the ordinance or ordinances were
 2 submitted under section 1(c)(1) of this chapter would effectively
 3 address the flood damage reduction, drainage, storm water
 4 management, recreation, or water infrastructure needs of each
 5 county that submitted an ordinance under section 1(c)(1) of this
 6 chapter?

7 (4) Is it reasonable to expect that the establishment of a
 8 commission that has powers under this article only in the area or
 9 areas inside the geographic boundaries of the designated
 10 watershed would effectively address the flood damage reduction,
 11 drainage, storm water management, recreation, or water
 12 infrastructure needs of each county that submitted an ordinance
 13 under section 1(c)(1) of this chapter?

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

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

27 (f) If:

28 (1) one (1) county's executive submits an ordinance and a
 29 request for recognition of a proposed commission under section
 30 1(c) of this chapter; and

31 (2) the natural resources commission answers all of the questions
 32 set forth in subsection (e) favorably;

33 the natural resources commission shall issue an order recognizing the
 34 watershed development commission and recognizing the county
 35 referred to in subdivision (1) as a member of the watershed
 36 development commission.

37 (g) If:

38 (1) executives of two (2) or more counties submit ordinances and
 39 requests for recognition of a proposed watershed development
 40 commission under section 1(c) of this chapter; and

41 (2) the natural resources commission answers all of the questions
 42 set forth in subsection (e) favorably with respect to at least one



10 (1) inform the executive of the county in writing of its decision;
11 and

12 (2) specify in the writing the reason or reasons for each
13 unfavorable answer.

20 (j) An action of the natural resources commission under this
21 section declining to recognize a particular county as a member of a
22 watershed development commission does not preclude the later
23 submission of:

24 (1) another ordinance and written request under section 1(c) of
25 this chapter for recognition of the county as a member of another
26 proposed watershed development commission; or
27 (2) an ordinance and written request under section 4 or 5 of this
28 chapter proposing the county for membership in an established
29 watershed development commission.

30 SECTION 79. IC 14-30.5-2-6, AS AMENDED BY P.L.92-2025,
31 SECTION 51, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
32 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. (a) A county to which section 4 or 5 of this
33 chapter applies may not become a member of an existing watershed
34 development commission unless:

35 (1) the executives of all of the counties that are members of the
36 existing commission adopt ordinances accepting the county as a
37 member county of the existing commission; and

38 (2) the natural resources commission issues an order under this
39 section recognizing the county as a member county of the
40 existing commission.

41 (b) Before making a decision whether to recognize a county as a
42 member county of an existing commission under this section, the



1 natural resources commission shall hold at least one (1) public hearing
2 in the county concerning the proposed membership of the county in the
3 existing commission. Any interested person attending a public hearing
4 held under this subsection shall have the right to:

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

7 concerning the proposed membership of the county in the existing
8 commission. The **division of water, on behalf of the** natural resources
9 commission, may convene the meeting, record the testimony given, and
10 receive the written comments provided.

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

14 (1) by publication at least one (1) time in one (1) newspaper of
15 general circulation in the county in which the hearing will be
16 held; and

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

22 (1) Do the stated purposes for which the watershed development
23 commission was established correspond to the flood damage
24 reduction, drainage, storm water management, recreation, or
25 water infrastructure needs of the county, as stated under section
26 4(b)(3) or 5(b)(3) of this chapter?

(2) Is it reasonable to expect that the county's flood damage reduction, drainage, storm water management, recreation, or water infrastructure needs, as stated under section 4(b)(3) or 5(b)(3) of this chapter, would be addressed more effectively if the county were a member of the existing commission than those needs have previously been addressed?

33 (3) Would the county's membership in the existing commission
34 diminish the effectiveness of the existing watershed
35 development commission in addressing the flood damage
36 reduction, drainage, storm water management, recreation, or
37 water infrastructure needs of other member counties?

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

41 (5) Has a regional watershed study or watershed management
42 plan been conducted in consultation with Indiana finance

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1 authority and the department of natural resources that assesses
 2 water use, water quality, drinking water systems, wastewater
 3 management systems, storm water management, flood control,
 4 drainage management, recreational uses, natural resources, and
 5 water infrastructure needs of the watershed of the proposed
 6 commission? If so, can the establishment of the proposed
 7 commission be expected to address the needs identified in that
 8 study or management plan?

9 (e) If the natural resources commission answers all of the
 10 questions set forth in subsection (d) favorably, the natural resources
 11 commission shall issue an order recognizing the membership of the
 12 county in the existing commission.

13 (f) If the natural resources commission does not answer all of the
 14 questions set forth in subsection (d) favorably, the natural resources
 15 commission shall inform the executive of the county to which section
 16 4 or 5 of this chapter applies in writing of its decision and specify in the
 17 writing the reason or reasons for each unfavorable answer.

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

23 SECTION 80. IC 14-31-3-4 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY
 24 1, 2026]. **Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "harvest season" means the**
 25 **season established by the commission under section 14(b)(1) of this**
 26 **chapter.**

27 SECTION 81. IC 14-31-3-4.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
 28 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 29 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 4.5. As used in this chapter,**
 30 **"licensee" refers to a person issued any of the following valid**
 31 **licenses under this chapter:**

- 32 (1) **A ginseng dealer license.**
- 33 (2) **A ginseng harvester license.**

34 SECTION 82. IC 14-31-3-5.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
 35 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 36 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 5.5. As used in this chapter,**
 37 **"valid license" refers to a license that:**

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

41 SECTION 83. IC 14-31-3-7 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 42 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 7. (a) A person may**



1 **not harvest, buy, or sell ginseng in Indiana without the proper
2 license issued by the department under section 8 of this chapter.**

3 **(b) A person must have be issued a valid license issued by the
4 department during the current selling season to be a ginseng dealer
5 in Indiana.**

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

8 SECTION 84. IC 14-31-3-8 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
9 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 8. (a) To obtain a
10 ginseng:

11 **(1) dealer's license, a person must: do the following:**

12 **(+) (A) apply to the department for the license in the
13 manner prescribed by the department; and**

14 **(2) (B) pay a license fee of one two hundred dollars (\$100)
15 (\$200) before August 15 August 30 of each year; or**

16 **(2) harvester's license, a person must apply to the
17 department for the license in the manner prescribed by the
18 department.**

19 **There is no cost for a license issued by the department under
20 subdivision (2).**

21 **(b) A ginseng dealer's license issued under subsection (a) is
22 effective September 1 of each year and expires annually on August
23 31 of the following calendar year.**

24 **(c) A ginseng harvester shall obtain written authorization from
25 a real property owner to harvest ginseng on the owner's real
26 property. Written authorization under this subsection must include
27 the:**

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

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

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

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

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

40 **(f) Not later than thirty (30) calendar days after the last day of
41 a selling season, a ginseng dealer must submit to the department
42 via the online ginseng portal a summary of all ginseng bought and**



1 **sold by the ginseng dealer during the selling season. The summary**
 2 **must also contain the following information in the manner**
 3 **required by the department:**

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

7 (2) The type, weight, and condition of the ginseng, wild
 8 simulated or artificially propagated, that was bought or sold.

9 (3) The number and date of shipments and the county from
 10 which ginseng is taken by a harvester.

11 SECTION 85. IC 14-31-3-9 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 12 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 9. (a) ~~As used in this~~
 13 section, "selling season" means the season established by the
 14 commission under section 14(b)(2) of this chapter. **The selling season**
 15 **for ginseng begins September 1 each year and ends March 31 of the**
 16 **following calendar year.**

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

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

27 (1) Another ginseng dealer.

28 (2) A ginseng exporter.

29 (3) For export from the ginseng dealer.

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

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

37 (1) examine the certificate of ginseng shipment;

38 (2) examine the ginseng shipment; and

39 (3) if approved, certify and date the certificate via the
 40 ginseng portal.

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



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

5 SECTION 86. IC 14-31-3-10 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 6 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10. (a) Wild ginseng
 7 may not be harvested except during **the** harvest season.

8 (b) Ginseng harvested in Indiana may not be possessed by a
 9 ginseng harvester **during the part of a year established under section**
 10 **14(b)(3) of this chapter, after the selling season** unless the department
 11 gives written authorization **otherwise**.

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

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

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

21 **(1) records; and**
 22 **(2) business premises;**
 23 **of the ginseng dealer.**

24 (f) A ginseng dealer or ginseng harvester may not
 25 misrepresent in:

26 **(1) a report;**
 27 **(2) a log;**
 28 **(3) a certificate; or**
 29 **(4) any other record required under this chapter;**

30 **that a substance is ginseng if the ginseng dealer or ginseng**
 31 **harvester knows, or reasonably should know, that all or a portion**
 32 **of the substance is a substance other than ginseng.**

33 (g) A ginseng dealer or ginseng harvester may not knowingly
 34 include false or incorrect information in:

35 **(1) a document;**
 36 **(2) a log;**
 37 **(3) a certificate; or**
 38 **(4) any other record required under this chapter.**

39 If a ginseng dealer or ginseng harvester determines that
 40 information under this subsection is incorrect, the ginseng dealer
 41 shall immediately inform the department of the correct
 42 information.



1 SECTION 87. IC 14-31-3-11, AS AMENDED BY P.L.92-2025,
 2 SECTION 52, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 3 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 11. **(a) The department may suspend or revoke**
 4 **a license issued under this chapter if the licensee:**

- 5 **(1) violates any provision of this chapter;**
- 6 **(2) fails to report the records required under this chapter in**
the manner specified by the department;
- 7 **(3) fails to submit the information required to be submitted**
to the department:
 - 8 **(A) quarterly; or**
 - 9 **(B) annually;**
- 10 **(4) has a suspended or revoked license to harvest or deal**
ginseng in another state; or
- 11 **(5) is prohibited from harvesting or dealing ginseng in**
another state or any reason.

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

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

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

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

21 SECTION 88. IC 14-31-3-12 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 22 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 12. **(a) The following**
 23 **definitions apply throughout this section:**

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

26 **(b) The department may carry out scientific research on for**
 27 **ginseng to determine the following:**

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

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

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

32 **(d) A person may not harvest or possess harvested wild**



1 **ginseng unless the:**
 2 **(1) person is issued a valid license to harvest ginseng;**
 3 **(2) ginseng is harvested only during the harvest season; and**
 4 **(3) ginseng plant to be harvested meets the following**
 5 **conditions:**
 6 **(A) Each individual ginseng plant demonstrates at least**
 7 **one (1) of the following:**
 8 **(i) At least three (3) prongs and a flowering or**
 9 **fruiting stalk. Except as provided in clause (B), the**
 10 **entire stalk and leaves must be retained with the**
 11 **plant until the plant is taken to the ginseng**
 12 **harvester's residence or place of business.**
 13 **(ii) At least four (4) internodes on the rhizome.**
 14 **(B) Mature fruits and any seeds from a harvested plant**
 15 **must be planted in the vicinity where the ginseng plant**
 16 **is taken in a manner that encourages the germination**
 17 **and growth of new plants.**

18 SECTION 89. IC 14-31-3-13 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY
 19 1, 2026]. See. 13. The department may establish ginseng harvesting
 20 quotas based on the results of research and data collection.

21 SECTION 90. IC 14-31-3-14 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 22 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 14. (a) The department
 23 may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 that are necessary to carry out to
 24 implement this chapter.

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

27 **(1) Establish the harvest season;**
 28 **(2) Establish the selling season;**
 29 **(3) Establish the part of a year when ginseng harvested in**
 30 **Indiana may not be possessed by a ginseng harvester without**
 31 **written authorization from the department;**
 32 **(4) Establish the part of a year when ginseng harvested in**
 33 **Indiana may not be bought, sold, or possessed by a ginseng**
 34 **dealer without written authorization from the department.**

35 (b) Information contained in the ginseng portal concerning
 36 trade secrets or privileged commercial or financial information
 37 relating to the competitive rights of the person or entity intending
 38 to explore the described area that is submitted to the director
 39 under this chapter is confidential and not available for public
 40 examination.

41 SECTION 91. IC 14-31-3-15, AS AMENDED BY P.L.111-2016,
 42 SECTION 40, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE



1 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 15. A ginseng dealer person who harvests, buys,
 2 or sells ginseng without a valid license issued under section 8 of this
 3 chapter, or who otherwise violates this chapter commits:

- 4 (1) purchases or sells ginseng for resale or exportation without
 a license; or
- 5 (2) obtains a license because of a false or an incorrect statement;
 commits
- 6 (1) a Class C misdemeanor for a first offense;
- 7 (2) a Class B misdemeanor for a second offense; or
- 8 (3) a Class A misdemeanor for a third offense and each
 subsequent offense.

9 SECTION 92. IC 14-31-3-16 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY
 10 1, 2026]. Sec. 16. A person who harvests ginseng out of a harvest
 11 season in violation of section 10 of this chapter commits a Class B
 12 misdemeanor.

13 SECTION 93. IC 14-31-3-17 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY
 14 1, 2026]. Sec. 17. A person who possesses unprocessed ginseng out of
 15 a harvest season in violation of section 10 of this chapter commits a
 16 Class B misdemeanor.

17 SECTION 94. IC 14-31-3-18 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY
 18 1, 2026]. Sec. 18. A person who harvests ginseng in an amount greater
 19 than a quota established under section 13 of this chapter commits a
 20 Class B infraction.

21 SECTION 95. IC 14-31-3-19 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY
 22 1, 2026]. Sec. 19. A ginseng dealer who buys, sells, or possesses
 23 ginseng in violation of section 10 of this chapter commits a Class B
 24 misdemeanor.

25 SECTION 96. IC 14-31-3-20 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY
 26 1, 2026]. Sec. 20. A person who, without written authorization from the
 27 department, takes or sends from Indiana ginseng that is harvested in
 28 Indiana in violation of section 9 of this chapter commits a Class A
 29 misdemeanor.

30 SECTION 97. IC 14-31-3-21 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY
 31 1, 2026]. Sec. 21. A person who knowingly or intentionally:

- 32 (1) takes or sends from Indiana ginseng that was harvested in
 another state for export from the United States; or
- 33 (2) receives ginseng that was harvested in another state for
 export from the United States;
 without written authorization to export the ginseng under the laws of
 the state in which the ginseng was harvested commits a Class A
 misdemeanor.

34 SECTION 98. IC 14-33-1-1 IS AMENDED TO READ AS

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1 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) A conservancy
 2 district may be established for any of the following purposes:

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

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

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

24 SECTION 99. IC 14-33-2-19 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 25 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 19. (a) In determining
 26 the facts, the **division of water, on behalf of the** commission, shall **do**
 27 **the following:**

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

30 (2) At the request of an interested person, **the commission shall**
 31 hold hearings at the county seat of a county containing land in
 32 the proposed district.

33 (3) **The commission shall** Choose the county seat.

34 (b) The **commission division of water** shall give notice of the
 35 hearings by publication at least one (1) time in one (1) newspaper of
 36 general circulation in each county containing land in the proposed
 37 district.

38 SECTION 100. IC 14-33-2-22 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 39 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 22. The commission,
 40 **in coordination with the department,** shall make a report of the
 41 commission's findings to the court, including findings on the territorial
 42 limits of the proposed district. The commission shall make this report



1 within one hundred twenty (120) days after the petition is referred to
 2 the commission, unless the commission requests and receives approval
 3 from the court for additional periods of thirty (30) days each.

4 SECTION 101. IC 14-38-1-13, AS AMENDED BY P.L.118-2009,
 5 SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 6 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 13. (a) All proceeds derived:

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

9 (2) from or by reason of any operations under this chapter;
 10 shall, after deducting all costs incurred by the department, be paid to
 11 the treasurer of state for the use of the division of the department
 12 having the custody, control, possession, or authority of or over the real
 13 property involved.

14 (b) Except as provided in subsection (c), the proceeds shall be
 15 deposited in the proper fund of the appropriate division of the
 16 department.

17 (c) Except as provided in subsection (d), the proceeds from
 18 royalties or other compensation paid for minerals taken from beneath
 19 the navigable waters of the state shall be deposited in the state general
 20 fund.

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

24 **(1) Twenty percent (20%)** in the Wabash River heritage
 25 corridor fund established by IC 14-13-6-23.

26 **(2) Eighty percent (80%) in the oil and gas fund established
 27 by IC 6-8-1-27.**

28 SECTION 102. IC 25-36.5-1-3, AS AMENDED BY
 29 P.L.155-2015, SECTION 27, IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 30 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) Every person
 31 registered as a timber buyer shall file with the department an effective
 32 surety bond issued by a corporate surety authorized to engage in the
 33 business of executing surety bonds in Indiana.

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

37 (c) The security required under subsection (a) or (b) shall be made
 38 payable upon demand to the director, subject to this chapter, for the use
 39 and benefit of the people of Indiana and for the use and benefit of any
 40 timber grower from whom the applicant purchased and who is not paid
 41 by the applicant or for the use and benefit of any timber grower whose
 42 timber has been cut by the applicant or registrant or the applicant's or



1 registrant's agents, and who has not been paid for the timber.

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

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

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

13 If an applicant has not previously engaged in business as a timber
 14 buyer, the amount of the bond shall be based on the estimated dollar
 15 amount to be paid by the timber buyer to timber growers for timber
 16 purchased during the next succeeding year, as set forth in the
 17 application.

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

22 (f) Security shall be in a form and contain the terms and conditions
 23 as may be approved from time to time by the director, be conditioned
 24 to secure an honest cutting and accounting for timber purchased by the
 25 registrant, secure payment to the timber growers, and insure the timber
 26 growers against all fraudulent acts of the registrant in the purchase and
 27 cutting of the timber of this state.

28 (g) If a timber buyer fails to pay when due any amount due a
 29 timber grower for timber purchased, or fails to pay legally determined
 30 damages for timber wrongfully cut by a timber buyer or the timber
 31 buyer's agent, or commits any violation of this chapter, an adjudicative
 32 proceeding on the bond for forfeiture may be commenced, and notice
 33 of the proceeding shall be provided, under IC 4-21.5-3-6. A surety or
 34 person in possession of the security provided under subsection (a) or
 35 (b) is entitled to notification of the proceeding. If a final agency action
 36 is entered by the department under this subsection against the timber
 37 buyer, the surety or other person in possession of the security shall
 38 deliver the amount of the security identified in the order. A proceeding
 39 for forfeiture of a timber buyer's bond under IC 4-21.5 is the exclusive
 40 remedy under law for the forfeiture of the bond.

41 (h) An owner of property seeking a preliminary injunction or
 42 restraining order against a person, corporation, or other entity to



1 prevent or stop the wrongful cutting of timber on the owner's property
2 is relieved of the requirement to post a bond or other security with the
3 court as a prerequisite to the issuance of the preliminary injunction or
4 restraining order. However, this subsection does not apply to a property
5 owner who seeks a preliminary injunction or restraining order to
6 prevent or stop alleged wrongful cutting by a timber cutter or timber
7 buyer with whom the property owner had contracted for the cutting or
8 sale of timber.

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

15 SECTION 103. IC 25-36.5-1-10, AS AMENDED BY
16 P.L.158-2013, SECTION 292, IS AMENDED TO READ AS
17 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10. **(a)** A person who:

18 (1) engages in business as a timber buyer without securing a
19 registration or in violation of this chapter; or
20 (2) refuses to permit inspection of the person's premises, books,
21 accounts, or records as provided in this chapter;

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

30 SECTION 104. IC 25-39-3-5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
31 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
32 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. (a) An applicant may request
33 informal review of a failed written or practical examination from
34 the division of water of the department.

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

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



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

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

SECTION 105. IC 25-39-3-6 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 6. (a) A sponsor of a continuing education program, or licensee who attends a continuing education program, may request informal review of a decision by the department to:**

(1) refuse to authorize credits; or

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

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

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

- (1) includes information significant to the governing statute or rule that was not previously known to the department; or**
- (2) provides innovative or specialized instruction to a limited constituency with extraordinary educational needs that are likely to enhance the interests protected or promoted by the governing statute or rule.**

SECTION 106. IC 35-52-14-27.8 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. ~~Sec. 27.8. IC 14-22-32-2 defines a crime concerning game birds and exotic mammals.~~

SECTION 107. IC 35-52-14-39 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. See: 39. IC 14-31-3-16 defines a crime concerning nature preserves.

SECTION 108. IC 35-52-14-40 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. See. 40. IC 14-31-3-17 defines a crime concerning nature preserves.

SECTION 109. IC 35-52-14-41 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. Sec. 41. IC 14-31-3-19 defines a crime concerning nature preserves.

SECTION 110. IC 35-52-14-42 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. Sec. 42. IC 14-31-3-20 defines a crime concerning nature preserves.

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1 SECTION 111. IC 35-52-14-43 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE
2 JULY 1, 2026]. Sec. 43. IC 14-31-3-21 defines a crime concerning
3 nature preserves.

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