



February 18, 2026

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL No. 254

DIGEST OF SB 254 (Updated February 18, 2026 9:54 am - DI 110)

Citations Affected: IC 5-28; IC 21-22; IC 21-41.

Synopsis: Ivy Tech Community College. Consolidates duties and responsibilities for Ivy Tech Community College (college). Includes logistics, information technology, and life sciences as areas of expertise for members of the college's board of trustees (board). Provides that members of a campus board may represent an employer that operates within the campus service area. Provides that the campus board, in collaboration with the campus chancellor, shall nominate and submit candidate names in the event of a campus board vacancy. Requires the campus board to: (1) develop and recommend certain plans to the board; and (2) make certain budget recommendations to the campus chancellor. Realigns and consolidates the primary purposes of the college. Consolidates duties and responsibilities for the board. Requires the Indiana economic development corporation, not later than December 1, 2026, to: (1) develop an education to employment research program; and (2) create a framework for education to employment data analysis and data sharing. Repeals certain provisions regarding the purpose and requirements of the college.

Effective: July 1, 2026.

**Goode, Raatz, Qaddoura, Ford J.D.,
Pol Jr., Taylor G, Randolph Lonnie M**
(HOUSE SPONSORS — LOPEZ, CASH, BURTON, PAYNE)

January 8, 2026, read first time and referred to Committee on Education and Career Development.

January 22, 2026, reported favorably — Do Pass.

January 26, 2026, read second time, ordered engrossed. Engrossed.

January 28, 2026, read third time, passed. Yeas 48, nays 0.

HOUSE ACTION

February 2, 2026, read first time and referred to Committee on Education.

February 18, 2026, amended, reported — Do Pass.

ES 254—LS 7007/DI 143



February 18, 2026

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

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

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

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

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL No. 254

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

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

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 5-28-6-13 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
2 AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
3 1, 2026]: **Sec. 13. (a) Not later than December 1, 2026, the**
4 **corporation shall develop an education to employment research**
5 **program. The program must create a framework for education to**
6 **employment data analysis and data sharing to:**
7 (1) **inform state policymaking and economic development**
8 **strategy;**
9 (2) **promote labor market alignment;**
10 (3) **facilitate statewide and regional talent planning;**
11 (4) **strengthen workforce training programs; and**
12 (5) **support return on investment analysis.**
13 (b) **The corporation shall develop the program described in**
14 **subsection (a) in collaboration with the following five (5)**
15 **individuals:**
16 (1) **The secretary of education (appointed under**
17 **IC 20-19-1-1.1), or the secretary's designee.**

ES 254—LS 7007/DI 143



1 **(2) The chief executive officer of the Indiana Chamber of**
 2 **Commerce, or the chief executive officer's designee,**
 3 **representing the state's business community.**

4 **(3) The chief executive officer of the Central Indiana**
 5 **Corporate Partnership, or the chief executive officer's**
 6 **designee, representing the state's priority industry sectors for**
 7 **economic growth.**

8 **(4) One (1) member of the Indiana General Assembly**
 9 **designated by the speaker of the house of representatives.**

10 **(5) One (1) member of the Indiana General Assembly**
 11 **designated by the president pro tempore of the senate.**

12 **(c) Any research reports, online data dashboards, or related**
 13 **deliverables created by the education to employment research**
 14 **program described in subsection (a) must be published on the**
 15 **corporation's website.**

16 **(d) The provisions in this section are subject to:**

17 **(1) available state funding and existing state resources; and**

18 **(2) philanthropic support.**

19 SECTION 2. IC 21-22-3-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.174-2018,
 20 SECTION 16, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 21 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) The number of members of the state board
 22 of trustees must equal the number of regions established by the state
 23 board of trustees plus one (1) additional member, but shall not exceed
 24 fifteen (15) total members. The state board of trustees shall divide the
 25 state of Indiana into regions. Each region shall be represented by one
 26 (1) trustee. Each member of the state board of trustees must have
 27 knowledge or experience in one (1) or more of the following areas:

28 (1) Manufacturing.

29 (2) Commerce.

30 (3) Labor.

31 (4) Agriculture.

32 **(5) Logistics.**

33 **(6) Information technology.**

34 **(7) Life sciences.**

35 ~~(5)~~ **(8) State and regional economic development needs.**

36 ~~(6)~~ **(9) Indiana's educational delivery education and workforce**
 37 **system.**

38 One (1) member must serve as an at-large member. Appointments shall
 39 be for three (3) year terms, on a staggered basis.

40 (b) An individual who holds an elective or appointed office of the
 41 state is not eligible to serve as a member of the state board of trustees.
 42 A member of a campus board may be appointed to the state board of



1 trustees but must then resign from the campus board.

2 SECTION 3. IC 21-22-3-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.174-2018,
3 SECTION 17, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
4 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. The governor shall fill all vacancies on the state
5 board of trustees. ~~All members of the state board of trustees who are~~
6 ~~serving on July 1, 2018; are entitled to serve until the ends of their~~
7 ~~terms.~~ At the end of a trustee's term or otherwise upon the occurrence
8 of a vacancy, the governor may appoint a trustee in accordance with
9 section 3 of this chapter.

10 SECTION 4. IC 21-22-6-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.174-2018,
11 SECTION 20, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
12 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. The campus board consists of at least seven (7)
13 members, including at least five (5) members who are representative
14 of ~~the manufacturing, commercial, agricultural, labor, and educational~~
15 ~~groups~~ **the knowledge or experience areas described in**
16 **IC 21-22-3-3(1) through IC 21-22-3-3(9)** of the campus service area,
17 all appointed by the state board of trustees. Membership may include
18 a representative from a school corporation that has part of its district
19 within the campus service area and at least one (1) Ivy Tech
20 Community College student who is enrolled at the campus. All
21 members of the campus board must be residents of the campus service
22 area **or represent an employer that operates within the campus**
23 **service area.** Appointments are for three (3) year terms, on a staggered
24 basis, and all trustees must be citizens of Indiana. Members may serve
25 for an unlimited number of terms.

26 SECTION 5. IC 21-22-6-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.174-2018,
27 SECTION 21, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
28 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. A vacancy on the campus board shall be filled
29 by appointment by the state board of trustees. The campus board, **in**
30 **collaboration with the campus chancellor**, shall nominate and submit
31 to the state board the names of one (1) or more candidates to fill the
32 vacancy within ninety (90) days after the vacancy occurs. The state
33 board of trustees may appoint one (1) of the persons nominated by the
34 campus board or may reject all of the nominees. If the state board of
35 trustees rejects all of the nominees, the state board of trustees shall
36 notify the campus board, and the campus board shall make one (1) or
37 more additional nominations within ninety (90) days after receipt of the
38 notice. The state board of trustees shall then fill the vacancy from either
39 the original group of nominations or from the additional nominations.

40 SECTION 6. IC 21-22-6-8, AS AMENDED BY P.L.174-2018,
41 SECTION 25, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
42 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 8. A campus board shall do the following:

ES 254—LS 7007/DI 143



- 1 (1) Make a careful analysis of the educational needs and
 2 opportunities of the campus service area ~~including an analysis of~~
 3 ~~programs and pathways designed to meet workforce and employer~~
 4 ~~demand. in accordance with IC 21-41-5.~~
- 5 (2) Develop and recommend to the state board of trustees a plan
 6 for providing postsecondary:
 7 (A) general education;
 8 (B) liberal arts education; and
 9 (C) occupational and technical education;
 10 programs and appropriate workforce development, assessment,
 11 and training services for the residents of that campus service area.
- 12 **(3) Develop and recommend to the state board of trustees a**
 13 **plan to:**
 14 **(A) align postsecondary academic curriculum with**
 15 **employer needs;**
 16 **(B) provide relevant skills training opportunities; and**
 17 **(C) ensure college transferability;**
 18 **for the residents of a campus service area.**
- 19 ~~(3) (4) Develop and recommend a Review the~~ budget for campus
 20 programs and operations, **and make recommendations to the**
 21 **campus chancellor for efficiencies in operation and alignment**
 22 **with campus service area needs.**
- 23 ~~(4) (5) Identify and recommend methods to optimize the use of~~
 24 facilities and equipment to support programs and pathways
 25 designed to meet workforce and employer demand.
- 26 ~~(5) (6) Facilitate and develop cooperation with employers,~~
 27 community leaders, economic development efforts, area career
 28 and technical education centers, and other public and private
 29 education and training entities ~~in order to provide postsecondary~~
 30 ~~general, liberal arts, and occupational and technical education and~~
 31 **training designed to meet to ensure alignment with** workforce
 32 and employer demand in an efficient and cost effective manner
 33 and to avoid duplication of services.
- 34 ~~(6) (7) Determine through evaluation, studies, or assessments the~~
 35 degree to which the established training needs of the campus
 36 service area are being met.
- 37 ~~(7) (8) Make recommendations to the state board of trustees~~
 38 concerning policies that appear to substantially affect the campus
 39 board's capacity to deliver effective and efficient programming.
- 40 SECTION 7. IC 21-22-6-10, AS AMENDED BY P.L.174-2018,
 41 SECTION 27, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 42 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10. Before taking any action under IC 21-27-6-3,



1 IC 21-27-6-4, IC 21-31-2-5, IC 21-38-3-7(2), or ~~IC 21-41-5-8~~
 2 **IC 21-41-5-3** that would substantially affect a campus, the state board
 3 of trustees shall request recommendations concerning the proposed
 4 action from the campus board.

5 SECTION 8. IC 21-22-6-11, AS AMENDED BY P.L.174-2018,
 6 SECTION 28, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 7 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 11. Upon request of a campus board that has
 8 submitted recommendations under section ~~8(7)~~ **8(8)** or 10 of this
 9 chapter, the state board of trustees shall conduct public hearings
 10 concerning the recommendations at a regular or special meeting of the
 11 state board of trustees.

12 SECTION 9. IC 21-41-5-2, AS ADDED BY P.L.2-2007, SECTION
 13 282, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
 14 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. Ivy Tech Community College shall be devoted
 15 primarily to ~~providing~~ the following:

16 ~~(1) The educational opportunities for the citizens of Indiana~~
 17 ~~described in this chapter.~~

18 ~~(2) (1) The assessment and training services described in this~~
 19 ~~chapter. Serving as the workforce engine for the state of~~
 20 **Indiana by aligning postsecondary academic curriculum with**
 21 **employer needs and ensuring that all academic degree**
 22 **offerings provide a pathway to direct entry into the**
 23 **workforce.**

24 **(2) Serving as an open access institution for high school**
 25 **students, adult learners, and high school graduates by:**

26 **(A) providing relevant training opportunities that allow**
 27 **individuals to:**

28 **(i) acquire necessary skills for specific jobs;**

29 **(ii) obtain certifications; or**

30 **(iii) improve the individual's work product; and**

31 **(B) providing dual credit and dual enrollment offerings**
 32 **described in IC 21-43.**

33 **(3) Promoting education and economic development by**
 34 **providing assessment and training services for the citizens of**
 35 **Indiana, including:**

36 **(A) determining the skills needed for specific jobs;**

37 **(B) determining whether particular individuals have the**
 38 **skills needed to:**

39 **(i) do specific jobs; or**

40 **(ii) qualify for specific skill certifications; and**

41 **(C) developing and delivering training programs designed**
 42 **to help individuals:**



- 1 (i) acquire the skills needed to do specific jobs;
 2 (ii) obtain specific skill certifications; or
 3 (iii) improve the quality of the individual's work product.
- 4 (4) Meeting the needs of state and local officials, employers,
 5 and labor organizations by designing and delivering
 6 educational and training courses and programs to provide
 7 economic and workforce development.
- 8 SECTION 10. IC 21-41-5-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.141-2016,
 9 SECTION 7, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 10 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) It is the primary purpose of Ivy Tech
 11 Community College to provide educational opportunities and
 12 appropriate workforce development, assessment, and training services
 13 to:
- 14 (1) employees of employers whose productivity and
 15 competitiveness will be enhanced by targeted employee education
 16 and training courses and programs delivered in the employer's
 17 workplace;
- 18 (2) students who require additional education before enrolling in
 19 college level courses at either a two (2) year or a four (4) year
 20 institution;
- 21 (3) individuals who have graduated from high school and are
 22 more interested in continuing their education in a general, liberal
 23 arts, occupational, or technical program at a two (2) year,
 24 nonresidential college;
- 25 (4) individuals who have graduated from high school and want to
 26 earn credits that will transfer to a four (4) year college;
- 27 (5) students who do not complete work at a four (4) year college
 28 or who are referred by a four (4) year college to Ivy Tech
 29 Community College;
- 30 (6) students who complete their work at a four (4) year college but
 31 would like to supplement that education to improve existing skills
 32 or acquire new skills; and
- 33 (7) adult workers who need and desire retraining or additional
 34 training of an occupational or technical nature for the workplace.
- 35 (b) (a) The board of trustees of Ivy Tech Community College shall
 36 establish an administrative structure for Ivy Tech Community College
 37 that provides the support necessary to **accomplish the purposes**
 38 **described in section 2 of this chapter.** for:
- 39 (1) workforce training programs, including programs designed for
 40 the direct entry of individuals into the workforce; and
 41 (2) programs to enhance the skills of workers.
- 42 (b) The board of trustees of Ivy Tech Community College shall



1 do the following in its development and adoption of programs
2 leading to a certificate and for workforce training programs:

3 (1) Obtain and consider comments and input from Indiana
4 employers and employer organizations.

5 (2) Ensure that the programs are aligned with the primary
6 purposes of Ivy Tech Community College that are specified in
7 section 2 of this chapter.

8 (c) Subject to IC 21-22-6-10, the board of trustees of Ivy Tech
9 Community College may:

10 (1) develop and adopt the appropriate education programs to
11 be offered and workforce services to be provided; and

12 (2) grant appropriate certificates of achievement and
13 associate degrees, including associate of applied science,
14 associate of science, and associate of arts degrees, to students
15 who complete prescribed and authorized courses or series of
16 courses.

17 SECTION 11. IC 21-41-5-4 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
18 2026]. Sec. 4: Ivy Tech Community College shall help promote
19 education and economic development by providing assessment and
20 training services for the citizens of Indiana that include the following:

21 (1) Determining the skills needed for specific jobs:

22 (2) Determining whether particular individuals have the skills
23 needed to:

24 (A) do specific jobs; or

25 (B) qualify for specific skill certifications:

26 (3) Developing and delivering training programs designed to help
27 individuals:

28 (A) acquire the skills needed to do specific jobs;

29 (B) obtain specific skill certifications; or

30 (C) improve the quality of the individual's work product.

31 SECTION 12. IC 21-41-5-5 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
32 2026]. Sec. 5: Ivy Tech Community College shall meet the needs of
33 state and local officials, employers, and labor organizations by
34 designing and delivering educational and training courses and
35 programs. The primary objective of this effort is to provide economic
36 and workforce development support to the state's employers and
37 communities by meeting their needs for better educated and trained,
38 more productive, and more competitive employees and citizens:

39 SECTION 13. IC 21-41-5-8 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
40 2026]. Sec. 8: (a) Subject to IC 21-22-6-10, the board of trustees of Ivy
41 Tech Community College may develop and adopt the appropriate
42 education programs to be offered and workforce services to be



1 provided:

2 (b) The board of trustees of Ivy Tech Community College shall do
3 the following in its development and adoption of programs leading to
4 a certificate and for workforce training programs:

5 (1) Consider findings and recommendations concerning
6 workforce needs and training and education needs that are
7 submitted by advisory committees under section 14 of this
8 chapter:

9 (2) Obtain and consider comments and input from Indiana
10 employers and employer organizations:

11 (3) Ensure that the programs are aligned with the primary
12 purposes of Ivy Tech Community College that are specified in
13 section 3 of this chapter:

14 SECTION 14. IC 21-41-5-9 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
15 2026]. Sec. 9: The board of trustees of Ivy Tech Community College
16 may grant appropriate certificates of achievement and associate
17 degrees, including associate of applied science, associate of science,
18 and associate of arts degrees, to students who complete prescribed and
19 authorized courses or series of courses:

20 SECTION 15. IC 21-41-5-10, AS AMENDED BY P.L.169-2007,
21 SECTION 29, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
22 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10. The board of trustees of Ivy Tech Community
23 College may do the following:

24 (1) Initiate, promote, inaugurate, and develop occupational and
25 technical education programs and appropriate workforce
26 development, assessment, and training services in a manner
27 consistent with sections 2 through 4 3 of this chapter.

28 (2) Operate either through committee or through subordinate
29 corporate entities, statewide general, liberal arts, occupational,
30 and technical education programs, that in the board's opinion
31 should be established due to:

32 (A) the specialized nature of the programs;

33 (B) the limited number of students involved; or

34 (C) other unique features requiring special attention.

35 (3) Contract with appropriate education institutions, including
36 local public schools or other agencies, to carry out specific
37 programs that can best and most economically be provided
38 through this approach.

39 SECTION 16. IC 21-41-5-11 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY
40 1, 2026]. Sec. 11: Ivy Tech Community College may enter into the
41 contracts that are necessary to provide equipment for a data processing
42 school on or off the premises of:



1 (1) Ivy Tech Community College; or
2 (2) any of the college's campuses.
3 SECTION 17. IC 21-41-5-15 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY
4 1, 2026]. Sec. 15. Before November 1, 2016, and each November 1
5 thereafter, Ivy Tech Community College shall provide the budget
6 committee the following information for each of Ivy Tech Community
7 College's owned or operated campus locations or sites that offer
8 ongoing academic programs and services:
9 (1) The number of students enrolled.
10 (2) The amount of square feet of each building.
11 (3) The operating or overhead costs associated with the campus
12 location or site.



COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. President: The Senate Committee on Education and Career Development, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 254, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill DO PASS.

(Reference is to SB 254 as introduced.)

RAATZ, Chairperson

Committee Vote: Yeas 11, Nays 0

COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Education, to which was referred Senate Bill 254, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill be amended as follows:

Page 1, between the enacting clause and line 1, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"SECTION 1. IC 5-28-6-13 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 13. (a) Not later than December 1, 2026, the corporation shall develop an education to employment research program. The program must create a framework for education to employment data analysis and data sharing to:**

- (1) inform state policymaking and economic development strategy;
- (2) promote labor market alignment;
- (3) facilitate statewide and regional talent planning;
- (4) strengthen workforce training programs; and
- (5) support return on investment analysis.

(b) The corporation shall develop the program described in subsection (a) in collaboration with the following five (5) individuals:

- (1) The secretary of education (appointed under IC 20-19-1-1.1), or the secretary's designee.
- (2) The chief executive officer of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, or the chief executive officer's designee, representing the state's business community.
- (3) The chief executive officer of the Central Indiana



Corporate Partnership, or the chief executive officer's designee, representing the state's priority industry sectors for economic growth.

(4) One (1) member of the Indiana General Assembly designated by the speaker of the house of representatives.

(5) One (1) member of the Indiana General Assembly designated by the president pro tempore of the senate.

(c) Any research reports, online data dashboards, or related deliverables created by the education to employment research program described in subsection (a) must be published on the corporation's website.

(d) The provisions in this section are subject to:

(1) available state funding and existing state resources; and

(2) philanthropic support."

Renumber all SECTIONS consecutively.

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to SB 254 as printed January 23, 2026.)

BEHNING

Committee Vote: yeas 11, nays 0.

