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**SENATE BILL No. 254**

**AM025402 has been incorporated into January 23, 2026 printing.**

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**Synopsis:** Ivy Tech Community College.

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SB 254—LS 7007/DI 143



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January 23, 2026

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

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

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

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

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## SENATE BILL No. 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.**

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- 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**  
 7           **for 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



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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 ~~servng 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

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

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1 programming.  
 2 SECTION 7. IC 21-22-6-10, AS AMENDED BY P.L.174-2018,  
 3 SECTION 27, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 4 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10. Before taking any action under IC 21-27-6-3,  
 5 IC 21-27-6-4, IC 21-31-2-5, IC 21-38-3-7(2), or ~~IC 21-41-5-8~~  
 6 **IC 21-41-5-3** that would substantially affect a campus, the state board  
 7 of trustees shall request recommendations concerning the proposed  
 8 action from the campus board.

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

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

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

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

28 ~~(2) Serving as an open access institution for high school~~  
 29 ~~students, adult learners, and high school graduates by:~~

30 ~~(A) providing relevant training opportunities that allow~~  
 31 ~~individuals to:~~

32 ~~(i) acquire necessary skills for specific jobs;~~

33 ~~(ii) obtain certifications; or~~

34 ~~(iii) improve the individual's work product; and~~

35 ~~(B) providing dual credit and dual enrollment offerings~~  
 36 ~~described in IC 21-43.~~

37 ~~(3) Promoting education and economic development by~~  
 38 ~~providing assessment and training services for the citizens of~~  
 39 ~~Indiana, including:~~

40 ~~(A) determining the skills needed for specific jobs;~~

41 ~~(B) determining whether particular individuals have the~~  
 42 ~~skills needed to:~~

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- 1 (i) do specific jobs; or
- 2 (ii) qualify for specific skill certifications; and
- 3 (C) developing and delivering training programs
- 4 designed to help individuals:
- 5 (i) acquire the skills needed to do specific jobs;
- 6 (ii) obtain specific skill certifications; or
- 7 (iii) improve the quality of the individual's work
- 8 product.
- 9 (4) Meeting the needs of state and local officials, employers,
- 10 and labor organizations by designing and delivering
- 11 educational and training courses and programs to provide
- 12 economic and workforce development.

13 SECTION 10. IC 21-41-5-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.141-2016,  
 14 SECTION 7, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 15 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) It is the primary purpose of Ivy Tech  
 16 Community College to provide educational opportunities and  
 17 appropriate workforce development, assessment, and training services  
 18 to:

- 19 (1) employees of employers whose productivity and
- 20 competitiveness will be enhanced by targeted employee
- 21 education and training courses and programs delivered in the
- 22 employer's workplace;
- 23 (2) students who require additional education before enrolling in
- 24 college level courses at either a two (2) year or a four (4) year
- 25 institution;
- 26 (3) individuals who have graduated from high school and are
- 27 more interested in continuing their education in a general, liberal
- 28 arts, occupational, or technical program at a two (2) year,
- 29 nonresidential college;
- 30 (4) individuals who have graduated from high school and want
- 31 to earn credits that will transfer to a four (4) year college;
- 32 (5) students who do not complete work at a four (4) year college
- 33 or who are referred by a four (4) year college to Ivy Tech
- 34 Community College;
- 35 (6) students who complete their work at a four (4) year college
- 36 but would like to supplement that education to improve existing
- 37 skills or acquire new skills; and
- 38 (7) adult workers who need and desire retraining or additional
- 39 training of an occupational or technical nature for the workplace.

40 (b) (a) The board of trustees of Ivy Tech Community College shall  
 41 establish an administrative structure for Ivy Tech Community College  
 42 that provides the support necessary to accomplish the purposes

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1 described in section 2 of this chapter. for:

- 2 (1) workforce training programs, including programs designed  
3 for the direct entry of individuals into the workforce; and  
4 (2) programs to enhance the skills of workers.

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

- 8 (1) Obtain and consider comments and input from Indiana  
9 employers and employer organizations.  
10 (2) Ensure that the programs are aligned with the primary  
11 purposes of Ivy Tech Community College that are specified  
12 in section 2 of this chapter.

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

- 15 (1) develop and adopt the appropriate education programs  
16 to be offered and workforce services to be provided; and  
17 (2) grant appropriate certificates of achievement and  
18 associate degrees, including associate of applied science,  
19 associate of science, and associate of arts degrees, to students  
20 who complete prescribed and authorized courses or series of  
21 courses.

22 SECTION 11. IC 21-41-5-4 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY  
23 1, 2026]. Sec. 4. Ivy Tech Community College shall help promote  
24 education and economic development by providing assessment and  
25 training services for the citizens of Indiana that include the following:

- 26 (1) Determining the skills needed for specific jobs.  
27 (2) Determining whether particular individuals have the skills  
28 needed to:  
29 (A) do specific jobs; or  
30 (B) qualify for specific skill certifications.  
31 (3) Developing and delivering training programs designed to  
32 help individuals:  
33 (A) acquire the skills needed to do specific jobs;  
34 (B) obtain specific skill certifications; or  
35 (C) improve the quality of the individual's work product.

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

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1 more productive, and more competitive employees and citizens:

2 SECTION 13. IC 21-41-5-8 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY  
3 1, 2026]. Sec. 8: (a) Subject to IC 21-22-6-10, the board of trustees of  
4 Ivy Tech Community College may develop and adopt the appropriate  
5 education programs to be offered and workforce services to be  
6 provided:

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

10 (1) Consider findings and recommendations concerning  
11 workforce needs and training and education needs that are  
12 submitted by advisory committees under section 14 of this  
13 chapter.

14 (2) Obtain and consider comments and input from Indiana  
15 employers and employer organizations:

16 (3) Ensure that the programs are aligned with the primary  
17 purposes of Ivy Tech Community College that are specified in  
18 section 3 of this chapter.

19 SECTION 14. IC 21-41-5-9 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY  
20 1, 2026]. Sec. 9: The board of trustees of Ivy Tech Community College  
21 may grant appropriate certificates of achievement and associate  
22 degrees, including associate of applied science, associate of science,  
23 and associate of arts degrees, to students who complete prescribed and  
24 authorized courses or series of courses:

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

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

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

37 (A) the specialized nature of the programs;

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

39 (C) other unique features requiring special attention.

40 (3) Contract with appropriate education institutions, including  
41 local public schools or other agencies, to carry out specific

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1 programs that can best and most economically be provided  
2 through this approach.

3 SECTION 16. IC 21-41-5-11 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY  
4 1, 2026]. Sec. 11: Ivy Tech Community College may enter into the  
5 contracts that are necessary to provide equipment for a data processing  
6 school on or off the premises of:

- 7 (1) Ivy Tech Community College; or
- 8 (2) any of the college's campuses:

9 SECTION 17. IC 21-41-5-15 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY  
10 1, 2026]. Sec. 15: Before November 1, 2016, and each November 1  
11 thereafter, Ivy Tech Community College shall provide the budget  
12 committee the following information for each of Ivy Tech Community  
13 College's owned or operated campus locations or sites that offer  
14 ongoing academic programs and services:

- 15 (1) The number of students enrolled;
- 16 (2) The amount of square feet of each building;
- 17 (3) The operating or overhead costs associated with the campus
- 18 location or site.

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