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# SENATE BILL No. 254

Proposed Changes to January 23, 2026 printing by AM025402

## DIGEST OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Education to employment research program. 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.

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.
- 18 (2) The chief executive officer of the Indiana Chamber of

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- 1 Commerce, or the chief executive officer's designee,  
 2 representing the state's business community.  
 3 (3) The chief executive officer of the Central Indiana  
 4 Corporate Partnership, or the chief executive officer's  
 5 designee, representing the state's priority industry sectors  
 6 for economic growth.  
 7 (4) One (1) member of the Indiana General Assembly  
 8 designated by the speaker of the house of representatives.  
 9 (5) One (1) member of the Indiana General Assembly  
 10 designated by the president pro tempore of the senate.  
 11 (c) Any research reports, online data dashboards, or related  
 12 deliverables created by the education to employment research  
 13 program described in subsection (a) must be published on the  
 14 corporation's website.  
 15 (d) The provisions in this section are subject to:  
 16 (1) available state funding and existing state resources; and  
 17 (2) philanthropic support.  
 18 ] SECTION ~~←~~[2]. IC 21-22-3-3, AS AMENDED BY  
 19 P.L.174-2018, SECTION 16, IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
 20 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) The number of  
 21 members of the state board of trustees must equal the number of  
 22 regions established by the state board of trustees plus one (1) additional  
 23 member, but shall not exceed fifteen (15) total members. The state  
 24 board of trustees shall divide the state of Indiana into regions. Each  
 25 region shall be represented by one (1) trustee. Each member of the state  
 26 board of trustees must have knowledge or experience in one (1) or  
 27 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~~[3]. IC 21-22-3-4, AS AMENDED BY  
 3 P.L.174-2018, SECTION 17, IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
 4 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. The governor shall  
 5 fill all vacancies on the state board of trustees. ~~All members of the state~~  
 6 ~~board of trustees who are serving on July 1, 2018, are entitled to serve~~  
 7 ~~until the ends of their terms.~~ At the end of a trustee's term or otherwise  
 8 upon the occurrence of a vacancy, the governor may appoint a trustee  
 9 in accordance with section 3 of this chapter.

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

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

41 SECTION ~~5~~[6]. IC 21-22-6-8, AS AMENDED BY  
 42 P.L.174-2018, SECTION 25, IS AMENDED TO READ AS

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1 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 8. A campus board  
2 shall do the following:

3 (1) Make a careful analysis of the educational needs and  
4 opportunities of the campus service area ~~including an analysis of~~  
5 ~~programs and pathways designed to meet workforce and~~  
6 ~~employer demand. in accordance with IC 21-41-5.~~

7 (2) Develop and recommend to the state board of trustees a plan  
8 for providing postsecondary:

9 (A) general education;

10 (B) liberal arts education; and

11 (C) occupational and technical education;

12 programs and appropriate workforce development, assessment,  
13 and training services for the residents of that campus service  
14 area.

15 **(3) Develop and recommend to the state board of trustees a**  
16 **plan to:**

17 **(A) align postsecondary academic curriculum with**  
18 **employer needs;**

19 **(B) provide relevant skills training opportunities; and**

20 **(C) ensure college transferability;**

21 **for the residents of a campus service area.**

22 ~~(3)~~ **(4) Develop and recommend a Review the budget for**  
23 **campus programs and operations, and make recommendations**  
24 **to the campus chancellor for efficiencies in operation and**  
25 **alignment with campus service area needs.**

26 ~~(4)~~ **(5) Identify and recommend methods to optimize the use of**  
27 **facilities and equipment to support programs and pathways**  
28 **designed to meet workforce and employer demand.**

29 ~~(5)~~ **(6) Facilitate and develop cooperation with employers,**  
30 **community leaders, economic development efforts, area career**  
31 **and technical education centers, and other public and private**  
32 **education and training entities in order to provide postsecondary**  
33 **general, liberal arts, and occupational and technical education**  
34 **and training designed to meet to ensure alignment with**  
35 **workforce and employer demand in an efficient and cost**  
36 **effective manner and to avoid duplication of services.**

37 ~~(6)~~ **(7) Determine through evaluation, studies, or assessments the**  
38 **degree to which the established training needs of the campus**  
39 **service area are being met.**

40 ~~(7)~~ **(8) Make recommendations to the state board of trustees**  
41 **concerning policies that appear to substantially affect the**  
42 **campus board's capacity to deliver effective and efficient**

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

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

17 SECTION ~~8~~[9]. IC 21-41-5-2, AS ADDED BY P.L.2-2007,  
 18 SECTION 282, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
 19 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. Ivy Tech Community College  
 20 shall be devoted primarily to ~~providing~~ the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

42 ~~(B) determining whether particular individuals have the~~

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1 skills needed to:

2 (i) do specific jobs; or

3 (ii) qualify for specific skill certifications; and

4 (C) developing and delivering training programs  
5 designed to help individuals:

6 (i) acquire the skills needed to do specific jobs;

7 (ii) obtain specific skill certifications; or

8 (iii) improve the quality of the individual's work  
9 product.

10 (4) Meeting the needs of state and local officials, employers,  
11 and labor organizations by designing and delivering  
12 educational and training courses and programs to provide  
13 economic and workforce development.

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

20 (1) employees of employers whose productivity and  
21 competitiveness will be enhanced by targeted employee  
22 education and training courses and programs delivered in the  
23 employer's workplace;

24 (2) students who require additional education before enrolling in  
25 college level courses at either a two (2) year or a four (4) year  
26 institution;

27 (3) individuals who have graduated from high school and are  
28 more interested in continuing their education in a general, liberal  
29 arts, occupational, or technical program at a two (2) year,  
30 nonresidential college;

31 (4) individuals who have graduated from high school and want  
32 to earn credits that will transfer to a four (4) year college;

33 (5) students who do not complete work at a four (4) year college  
34 or who are referred by a four (4) year college to Ivy Tech  
35 Community College;

36 (6) students who complete their work at a four (4) year college  
37 but would like to supplement that education to improve existing  
38 skills or acquire new skills; and

39 (7) adult workers who need and desire retraining or additional  
40 training of an occupational or technical nature for the workplace.

41 (b) (a) The board of trustees of Ivy Tech Community College shall  
42 establish an administrative structure for Ivy Tech Community College

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1 that provides the support necessary to accomplish the purposes  
2 described in section 2 of this chapter. for:

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

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

9 (1) Obtain and consider comments and input from Indiana  
10 employers and employer organizations.

11 (2) Ensure that the programs are aligned with the primary  
12 purposes of Ivy Tech Community College that are specified  
13 in section 2 of this chapter.

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

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

18 (2) grant appropriate certificates of achievement and  
19 associate degrees, including associate of applied science,  
20 associate of science, and associate of arts degrees, to students  
21 who complete prescribed and authorized courses or series of  
22 courses.

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

28 (1) Determining the skills needed for specific jobs-

29 (2) Determining whether particular individuals have the skills  
30 needed to:

31 (A) do specific jobs; or

32 (B) qualify for specific skill certifications.

33 (3) Developing and delivering training programs designed to  
34 help individuals:

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

36 (B) obtain specific skill certifications; or

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

38 SECTION 1 ~~↔~~ [2]. IC 21-41-5-5 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE  
39 JULY 1, 2026]. Sec. 5. Ivy Tech Community College shall meet the  
40 needs of state and local officials, employers, and labor organizations by  
41 designing and delivering educational and training courses and  
42 programs. The primary objective of this effort is to provide economic

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1 and workforce development support to the state's employers and  
 2 communities by meeting their needs for better educated and trained;  
 3 more productive; and more competitive employees and citizens:

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

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

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

16 (2) Obtain and consider comments and input from Indiana  
 17 employers and employer organizations:

18 (3) Ensure that the programs are aligned with the primary  
 19 purposes of Ivy Tech Community College that are specified in  
 20 section 3 of this chapter:

21 SECTION 1 ~~↔~~ [4]. IC 21-41-5-9 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE  
 22 JULY 1, 2026]. Sec. 9: The board of trustees of Ivy Tech Community  
 23 College may grant appropriate certificates of achievement and  
 24 associate degrees, including associate of applied science; associate of  
 25 science; and associate of arts degrees; to students who complete  
 26 prescribed and authorized courses or series of courses:

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

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

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

39 (A) the specialized nature of the programs;

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

41 (C) other unique features requiring special attention.

42 (3) Contract with appropriate education institutions, including

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1 local public schools or other agencies, to carry out specific  
2 programs that can best and most economically be provided  
3 through this approach.

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

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

10 SECTION 1~~6~~[7]. IC 21-41-5-15 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE  
11 JULY 1, 2026]. Sec. 15: Before November 1, 2016, and each  
12 November 1 thereafter, Ivy Tech Community College shall provide the  
13 budget committee the following information for each of Ivy Tech  
14 Community College's owned or operated campus locations or sites that  
15 offer ongoing academic programs and services:

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

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