

# SENATE BILL No. 261

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## DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 9-24-2-2.5; IC 31-9-2-29.5; IC 31-37-19-17; IC 33-39-1-8; IC 35-31.5-2; IC 35-43-1; IC 35-45-3-2; IC 35-46-10.

**Synopsis:** Criminal vandalism. Renames the crime of "criminal mischief" to "criminal vandalism". Repeals: (1) institutional criminal mischief; (2) cemetery mischief; (3) railroad mischief; and (4) critical infrastructure facility mischief; places them in the "criminal vandalism" statute, and preserves the original penalties and defenses. Repeals and places provisions involving damage to a cave in the criminal vandalism statute. Repeals and places provisions involving depositing refuse in a cave in the littering statute. Makes conforming amendments.

**Effective:** July 1, 2026.

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January 8, 2026, read first time and referred to Committee on Corrections and Criminal Law.

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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. 261

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning criminal law and procedure.

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

1       SECTION 1. IC 9-24-2-2.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.257-2017,  
2       SECTION 38, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3       JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2.5. (a) The bureau shall suspend the driving  
4       privileges or invalidate the learner's permit of an individual who is  
5       under an order entered by a court under ~~IC 35-43-1-2(d)~~.  
6       **IC 35-43-1-2(i).**

7       (b) The bureau shall suspend the driving privileges or invalidate the  
8       learner's permit of an individual who is the subject of an order issued  
9       under IC 31-37-19-17 (or IC 31-6-4-15.9(f) before its repeal) or  
10      ~~IC 35-43-1-2(d)~~. **IC 35-43-1-2(i).**

11      SECTION 2. IC 31-9-2-29.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.65-2016,  
12      SECTION 12, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
13      JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 29.5. "Crime involving domestic or family  
14      violence" means a crime that occurs when a family or household  
15      member commits, attempts to commit, or conspires to commit any of  
16      the following against another family or household member:

17      (1) A homicide offense under IC 35-42-1.



- (2) A battery offense under IC 35-42-2.
- (3) Kidnapping or confinement under IC 35-42-3.
- (4) A sex offense under IC 35-42-4.
- (5) Robbery under IC 35-42-5.
- (6) Arson or ~~mischief~~ **vandalism** under IC 35-43-1.
- (7) Burglary or trespass under IC 35-43-2.
- (8) Disorderly conduct under IC 35-45-1.
- (9) Intimidation or harassment under IC 35-45-2.
- (10) Voyeurism under IC 35-45-4.
- (11) Stalking under IC 35-45-10.
- (12) An offense against the family under IC 35-46-1-2 through IC 35-46-1-8, IC 35-46-1-12, IC 35-46-1-15.1, or IC 35-46-1-15.3.
- (13) Human and sexual trafficking crimes under IC 35-42-3.5.
- (14) A crime involving animal cruelty and a family or household member under IC 35-46-3-12(b)(2) or IC 35-46-3-12.5.

SECTION 3. IC 31-37-19-17, AS AMENDED BY P.L.111-2021, SECTION 100, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 17. (a) This section applies if a child is a delinquent child under IC 31-37-1 due to the commission of a delinquent act that, if committed by an adult, would be criminal ~~mischief or institutional criminal mischief~~ **vandalism** under IC 35-43-1-2 that involves the use of graffiti.

(b) The juvenile court may, in addition to any other order or decree the court makes under this chapter, order the bureau of motor vehicles to:

- (1) suspend the child's driver's license; or
  - (2) invalidate the child's learner's permit;
- for one (1) year beginning the date of the order.

SECTION 4. IC 33-39-1-8, AS AMENDED BY P.L.10-2019, SECTION 127, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 8. (a) After June 30, 2005, this section does not apply to a person who:

- (1) holds a commercial driver's license; and
- (2) has been charged with an offense involving the operation of a motor vehicle in accordance with the federal Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act of 1999 (MCSIA) (Public Law 106-159.113 Stat. 1748).

(b) This section does not apply to a person arrested for or charged with:

- (1) an offense under IC 9-30-5-1 through IC 9-30-5-5; or
- (2) if a person was arrested or charged with an offense under



- 1 IC 9-30-5-1 through IC 9-30-5-5, an offense involving:  
 2 (A) intoxication; or  
 3 (B) the operation of a vehicle;  
 4 if the offense involving intoxication or the operation of a vehicle was  
 5 part of the same episode of criminal conduct as the offense under  
 6 IC 9-30-5-1 through IC 9-30-5-5.
- 7 (c) This section does not apply to a person:  
 8 (1) who is arrested for or charged with an offense under:  
 9 (A) IC 7.1-5-7-7, if the alleged offense occurred while the  
 10 person was operating a motor vehicle;  
 11 (B) IC 9-30-4-8, if the alleged offense occurred while the  
 12 person was operating a motor vehicle;  
 13 (C) IC 35-44.1-2-13(b)(1); or  
 14 (D) ~~IC 35-43-1-2(a)~~, **IC 35-43-1-2(b)(1)**, if the alleged offense  
 15 occurred while the person was operating a motor vehicle; and  
 16 (2) who was less than eighteen (18) years of age at the time of the  
 17 alleged offense.
- 18 (d) A prosecuting attorney may withhold prosecution against an  
 19 accused person if:  
 20 (1) the person is charged with a misdemeanor, a Level 6 felony,  
 21 or a Level 5 felony;  
 22 (2) the person agrees to conditions of a pretrial diversion program  
 23 offered by the prosecuting attorney;  
 24 (3) the terms of the agreement are recorded in an instrument  
 25 signed by the person and the prosecuting attorney and filed in the  
 26 court in which the charge is pending; and  
 27 (4) the prosecuting attorney electronically transmits information  
 28 required by the prosecuting attorneys council concerning the  
 29 withheld prosecution to the prosecuting attorneys council, in a  
 30 manner and format designated by the prosecuting attorneys  
 31 council.
- 32 (e) An agreement under subsection (d) may include conditions that  
 33 the person:  
 34 (1) pay to the clerk of the court an initial user's fee and monthly  
 35 user's fees in the amounts specified in IC 33-37-4-1;  
 36 (2) work faithfully at a suitable employment or faithfully pursue  
 37 a course of study or career and technical education that will equip  
 38 the person for suitable employment;  
 39 (3) undergo available medical treatment or mental health  
 40 counseling and remain in a specified facility required for that  
 41 purpose, including:  
 42 (A) addiction counseling;



- 1 (B) inpatient detoxification; and
- 2 (C) medication assisted treatment, including a federal Food
- 3 and Drug Administration approved long acting, nonaddictive
- 4 medication for the treatment of opioid or alcohol dependence;
- 5 (4) receive evidence based mental health and addiction,
- 6 intellectual disability, developmental disability, autism, and
- 7 co-occurring autism and mental illness forensic treatment services
- 8 to reduce the risk of recidivism;
- 9 (5) support the person's dependents and meet other family
- 10 responsibilities;
- 11 (6) make restitution or reparation to the victim of the crime for the
- 12 damage or injury that was sustained;
- 13 (7) refrain from harassing, intimidating, threatening, or having
- 14 any direct or indirect contact with the victim or a witness;
- 15 (8) report to the prosecuting attorney at reasonable times;
- 16 (9) answer all reasonable inquiries by the prosecuting attorney
- 17 and promptly notify the prosecuting attorney of any change in
- 18 address or employment; and
- 19 (10) participate in dispute resolution either under IC 34-57-3 or
- 20 a program established by the prosecuting attorney.
- 21 (f) An agreement under subsection (d)(2) may include other
- 22 provisions, including program fees and costs, reasonably related to the
- 23 defendant's rehabilitation, if approved by the court.
- 24 (g) The prosecuting attorney shall notify the victim when
- 25 prosecution is withheld under this section.
- 26 (h) All money collected by the clerk as user's fees or program fees
- 27 and costs under this section shall be deposited in the appropriate user
- 28 fee fund under IC 33-37-8.
- 29 (i) If a court withholds prosecution under this section and the terms
- 30 of the agreement contain conditions described in subsection (e)(7):
- 31 (1) the clerk of the court shall comply with IC 5-2-9; and
- 32 (2) the prosecuting attorney shall file a confidential form
- 33 prescribed or approved by the office of judicial administration
- 34 with the clerk.
- 35 SECTION 5. IC 35-31.5-2-35, AS ADDED BY P.L.114-2012,
- 36 SECTION 67, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
- 37 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 35. "Cave", for purposes of ~~IC 35-43-1-3;~~
- 38 **IC 35-43-1-2**, has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 35-43-1-3(a);~~
- 39 **IC 35-43-1-2.**
- 40 SECTION 6. IC 35-31.5-2-76, AS AMENDED BY P.L.65-2016,
- 41 SECTION 22, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
- 42 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 76. "Crime involving domestic or family violence"



means a crime that occurs when a family or household member commits, attempts to commit, or conspires to commit any of the following against another family or household member:

- (1) A homicide offense under IC 35-42-1.
- (2) A battery offense under IC 35-42-2.
- (3) Kidnapping or confinement under IC 35-42-3.
- (4) Human and sexual trafficking crimes under IC 35-42-3.5.
- (5) A sex offense under IC 35-42-4.
- (6) Robbery under IC 35-42-5.
- (7) Arson or ~~mischief~~ **vandalism** under IC 35-43-1.
- (8) Burglary or trespass under IC 35-43-2.
- (9) Disorderly conduct under IC 35-45-1.
- (10) Intimidation or harassment under IC 35-45-2.
- (11) Voyeurism under IC 35-45-4.
- (12) Stalking under IC 35-45-10.
- (13) An offense against family under IC 35-46-1-2 through IC 35-46-1-8, IC 35-46-1-12, IC 35-46-1-15.1, or IC 35-46-1-15.3.
- (14) A crime involving animal cruelty and a family or household member under IC 35-46-3-12(b)(2) or IC 35-46-3-12.5.

SECTION 7. IC 35-31.5-2-81.3 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 81.3. "Damages, permanently removes an object from, or defaces real property", for purposes of IC 35-43-1-2, has the meaning set forth in IC 35-43-1-2.**

SECTION 8. IC 35-31.5-2-224, AS AMENDED BY P.L.134-2017, SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 224. (a) "Owner", for purposes of ~~IC 35-43-1-3;~~ **IC 35-43-1-2**, has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 35-43-1-3(a);~~ **IC 35-43-1-2.**

(b) "Owner", for purposes of IC 35-48-3, has the meaning set forth in IC 35-48-3-1.5.

(c) "Owner", for purposes of IC 35-49, has the meaning set forth in IC 35-49-1-6.

(d) "Owner", for purposes of IC 35-43-5-19.5, means any person with an ownership interest or right to profit in a business.

SECTION 9. IC 35-31.5-2-230.1 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 230.1. "Pecuniary loss", for purposes of IC 35-43-1-2, has the meaning set forth in IC 35-43-1-2.**

SECTION 10. IC 35-31.5-2-267.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA



CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
[EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 267.5. "Real property in foreclosure", for purposes of IC 35-43-1-2, has the meaning set forth in IC 35-43-1-2.**

SECTION 11. IC 35-31.5-2-273.2, AS ADDED BY P.L.13-2013, SECTION 129, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 273.2. "Refuse", for purposes of IC 35-45-3-2, has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 35-45-3-2(b)~~. **IC 35-45-3-2.**

SECTION 12. IC 35-31.5-2-286, AS ADDED BY P.L.114-2012, SECTION 67, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 286. "Scientific purposes", for purposes of ~~IC 35-43-1-3~~, **IC 35-43-1-2**, has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 35-43-1-3(a)~~. **IC 35-43-1-2.**

SECTION 13. IC 35-43-1-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.100-2024, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) **The following definitions apply throughout this section:**

(1) **"Cave" means any naturally occurring subterranean cavity, including a cavern, pit, pothole, sinkhole, well, grotto, and tunnel, whether or not it has a natural entrance.**

(2) **"Critical infrastructure facility" has the meaning set forth in IC 35-46-10-1.**

(3) **"Damages, permanently removes an object from, or defaces real property" means to damage, permanently remove, or deface one (1) or more of the following:**

(A) **Fixtures (as defined in IC 26-1-2.1-309) of the real property.**

(B) **A component or subsystem of the heating, ventilation, or air conditioning system of the real property.**

(C) **Wiring of the real property.**

(D) **Pipes, fittings, or another part of the plumbing system of the real property.**

(E) **The structure, including the roof and foundation, of the real property.**

(F) **The windows of the real property.**

(G) **The floors, ceilings, walls, or doors of the real property.**

(H) **The landscaping of the real property.**

(I) **An unattached structure, carport, patio, fence, or swimming pool located on the real property.**

(4) **"Owner" means, with respect to a cave, the person who**



holds title to or is in possession of the land on or under which a cave is located, or the person's lessee, or agent.

(5) "Pecuniary loss" means all costs necessary to restore damaged or defaced property to its former condition. The term includes:

(A) the total costs incurred in inspecting, cleaning, and decontaminating property contaminated by a pollutant; and

(B) a reasonable estimate of all additional costs not already incurred under clause (A) that are necessary to inspect, clean, and decontaminate property contaminated by a pollutant, to the extent that the property has not already been:

(i) cleaned;

(ii) decontaminated; or

(iii) both cleaned and decontaminated.

The term includes inspection, cleaning, or decontamination conducted by a person certified under IC 16-19-3.1.

(6) "Real property in foreclosure" means real property with respect to which a foreclosure action has been filed or joined by a person having a security interest in the property that is used to secure:

(A) a mortgage;

(B) a land contract; or

(C) another agreement similar to a mortgage or a land contract.

The term does not include property that is the subject of a foreclosure action brought by a person having any other type of security interest in the property, including a mechanic's lien, a tax lien, or a lien placed by a homeowners association, unless the property is also the subject of a foreclosure action described in clauses (A) through (C).

(7) "Scientific purposes" means exploration and research conducted by persons affiliated with recognized scientific organizations with the intent to advance knowledge and to publish the results of the exploration or research in an appropriate medium.

(a) (b) A person who:

(1) recklessly, knowingly, or intentionally damages or defaces property of another person without the other person's consent; ~~commits criminal mischief; or~~

(2) knowingly or intentionally damages, permanently removes





1           an object from, or defaces real property in foreclosure;  
 2       commits criminal vandalism, a Class B misdemeanor except as  
 3       otherwise provided in this section.

4           (c) Criminal vandalism is a Class A misdemeanor if one (1) or  
 5       more of the following apply:

6           (1) The pecuniary loss is at least seven hundred fifty dollars  
 7           (\$750) but less than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000).

8           (2) The person damages:

9           (A) a structure used for religious worship without the  
 10          consent of the owner, possessor, or occupant of the  
 11          property that is damaged;

12          (B) a school or community center without the consent of  
 13          the owner, possessor, or occupant of the property that is  
 14          damaged;

15          (C) the property of an agricultural operation (as defined in  
 16          IC 32-30-6-1) without the consent of the owner, possessor,  
 17          or occupant of the property that is damaged;

18          (D) the property of a scientific research facility (as defined  
 19          in IC 35-31.5-2-287) without the consent of, or with consent  
 20          which was fraudulently obtained from, the owner,  
 21          possessor, or occupant of the property that is damaged;

22          (E) the grounds:

23           (i) adjacent to; and

24           (ii) owned or rented in common with;

25          a structure or facility described in clauses (A) through (D)  
 26          without the consent of the owner, possessor, or occupant of  
 27          the property that is damaged;

28          (F) personal property contained in a structure or located  
 29          at a facility described in clauses (A) through (D) without  
 30          the consent of the owner, possessor, or occupant of the  
 31          property that is damaged;

32          (G) property that is vacant real property (as defined in  
 33          IC 36-7-36-5) or a vacant structure (as defined in  
 34          IC 36-7-36-6); or

35          (H) property after the person has been denied entry to the  
 36          property by a court order that was issued:

37           (i) to the person; or

38           (ii) to the general public by conspicuous posting on or  
 39           around the property in areas where a person could  
 40           observe the order when the property has been designated  
 41           by a municipality or county enforcement authority to be  
 42           a vacant property, an abandoned property, or an



abandoned structure (as defined in IC 36-7-36-1).

(3) The person:

(A) damages a cemetery, a burial ground (as defined in IC 14-21-1-3), or a facility used for memorializing the dead;

(B) damages the grounds owned or rented by a cemetery or facility used for memorializing the dead; or

(C) disturbs, defaces, or damages a cemetery monument, grave marker, grave artifact, grave ornamentation, or cemetery enclosure;

unless the person acted in a proper and acceptable manner as authorized by IC 23-14, or unless the person acted in a proper and acceptable manner as authorized by IC 14-21, other than a person who disturbs the earth for an agricultural purpose under the exemption to IC 14-21 that is provided in IC 14-21-1-24.

(4) The person:

(A) damages or defaces a cave;

(B) damages a lock, gate, fence, or other structure designed to control or prevent access to a cave; or

(C) damages or destroys a cave dwelling animal in a cave; unless the act described in clause (A) or (C) was done for scientific purposes.

(d) Criminal vandalism is a Level 6 felony if one (1) or more of the following apply:

(1) The pecuniary loss is at least fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000).

(2) The damage causes a substantial interruption or impairment of utility service rendered to the public.

(3) The damage is to a public record.

(4) The damage is to a law enforcement animal (as defined in IC 35-46-3-4.5).

(5) The damage is to a component of an automatic building fire suppression system that is located in a penal facility.

(6) The damage is to property described in subsection (c)(2), and the pecuniary loss (or property damage, in the case of an agricultural operation or a scientific research facility) is at least seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750) but less than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000).

(7) The person damages property:

(A) during the dealing or manufacture of or attempted dealing or manufacture of a controlled substance; and



- 1 (B) by means of a fire or an explosion.
- 2 (8) The enhancement described in subsection (c)(3) applies
- 3 and the pecuniary loss is at least seven hundred fifty dollars
- 4 (\$750) but less than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000).
- 5 (9) The person damages or defaces:
- 6 (A) a locomotive, a railroad car, a train, or equipment of
- 7 a railroad company being operated on a railroad
- 8 right-of-way;
- 9 (B) a part of any railroad signal system, train control
- 10 system, centralized dispatching system, or highway
- 11 railroad grade crossing warning signal on a railroad
- 12 right-of-way owned, leased, or operated by a railroad
- 13 company; or
- 14 (C) any rail, switch, roadbed, viaduct, bridge, trestle,
- 15 culvert, or embankment on a right-of-way owned, leased,
- 16 or operated by a railroad company.
- 17 (e) Criminal vandalism is a Level 5 felony if one (1) or more of
- 18 the following apply:
- 19 (1) The damage is to property described in subsection (c)(2),
- 20 and the pecuniary loss (or property damage, in the case of an
- 21 agricultural operation or a scientific research facility) is at
- 22 least fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000).
- 23 (2) The person damages property:
- 24 (A) during the dealing or manufacture of or attempted
- 25 dealing or manufacture of a controlled substance;
- 26 (B) by means of a fire or an explosion; and
- 27 (C) resulting in moderate bodily injury to any person other
- 28 than a defendant.
- 29 (3) The enhancement described in subsection (c)(3) applies
- 30 and the pecuniary loss is at least fifty thousand dollars
- 31 (\$50,000).
- 32 (4) The person damages or defaces:
- 33 (A) a locomotive, a railroad car, a train, or equipment of
- 34 a railroad company being operated on a railroad
- 35 right-of-way;
- 36 (B) a part of any railroad signal system, train control
- 37 system, centralized dispatching system, or highway
- 38 railroad grade crossing warning signal on a railroad
- 39 right-of-way owned, leased, or operated by a railroad
- 40 company; or
- 41 (C) any rail, switch, roadbed, viaduct, bridge, trestle,
- 42 culvert, or embankment on a right-of-way owned, leased,



or operated by a railroad company;  
and the offense results in serious bodily injury to another person.

(5) The person damages or defaces a critical infrastructure facility.

(f) Criminal vandalism is a Level 4 felony if the person damages or defaces a critical infrastructure facility, and:

(1) the pecuniary loss is at least fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000); or

(2) the damage causes a substantial interruption or impairment of a critical infrastructure utility service rendered to the public.

(g) Criminal vandalism is a Level 2 felony if the person damages or defaces:

(1) a locomotive, a railroad car, a train, or equipment of a railroad company being operated on a railroad right-of-way;

(2) a part of any railroad signal system, train control system, centralized dispatching system, or highway railroad grade crossing warning signal on a railroad right-of-way owned, leased, or operated by a railroad company; or

(3) any rail, switch, roadbed, viaduct, bridge, trestle, culvert, or embankment on a right-of-way owned, leased, or operated by a railroad company;

and the offense results in the death of another person.

(h) It is a defense to a prosecution under subsection (b)(2) that the damage, removal, or defacement was the result of repair, renovation, replacement, or maintenance performed in good faith.

(i) If a person is convicted of an offense under this section that involves the use of graffiti, the court may, in addition to any other penalty, order that the person's driver's license or learner's permit be suspended or invalidated by the bureau of motor vehicles for not more than one (1) year.

(j) The court may rescind an order for suspension or invalidation under subsection (i) and allow the person to receive a license or permit before the period of suspension or invalidation ends if the court determines that the person has removed or painted over the graffiti or has made other suitable restitution.

However, the offense is:

(1) a Class A misdemeanor if the pecuniary loss is at least seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750) but less than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000); and

(2) a Level 6 felony if:



- 1 (A) the pecuniary loss is at least fifty thousand dollars
- 2 (\$50,000);
- 3 (B) the damage causes a substantial interruption or impairment
- 4 of utility service rendered to the public;
- 5 (C) the damage is to a public record;
- 6 (D) the damage is to a law enforcement animal (as defined in
- 7 IC 35-46-3-4.5); or
- 8 (E) the damage is to a component of an automatic building fire
- 9 suppression system that is located in a penal facility.
- 10 (b) A person who recklessly, knowingly, or intentionally damages:
- 11 (1) a structure used for religious worship without the consent of
- 12 the owner, possessor, or occupant of the property that is damaged;
- 13 (2) a school or community center without the consent of the
- 14 owner, possessor, or occupant of the property that is damaged;
- 15 (3) the property of an agricultural operation (as defined in
- 16 IC 32-30-6-1) without the consent of the owner, possessor, or
- 17 occupant of the property that is damaged;
- 18 (4) the property of a scientific research facility (as defined in
- 19 IC 35-31.5-2-287) without the consent of; or with consent which
- 20 was fraudulently obtained from; the owner, possessor, or occupant
- 21 of the property that is damaged;
- 22 (5) the grounds:
- 23 (A) adjacent to; and
- 24 (B) owned or rented in common with;
- 25 a structure or facility identified in subdivisions (1) through (4)
- 26 without the consent of the owner, possessor, or occupant of the
- 27 property that is damaged;
- 28 (6) personal property contained in a structure or located at a
- 29 facility identified in subdivisions (1) through (4) without the
- 30 consent of the owner, possessor, or occupant of the property that
- 31 is damaged;
- 32 (7) property that is vacant real property (as defined in
- 33 IC 36-7-36-5) or a vacant structure (as defined in IC 36-7-36-6);
- 34 or
- 35 (8) property after the person has been denied entry to the property
- 36 by a court order that was issued:
- 37 (A) to the person; or
- 38 (B) to the general public by conspicuous posting on or around
- 39 the property in areas where a person could observe the order
- 40 when the property has been designated by a municipality or
- 41 county enforcement authority to be a vacant property; an
- 42 abandoned property; or an abandoned structure (as defined in



1           IC 36-7-36-1);  
 2       commits institutional criminal mischief; a Class A misdemeanor.  
 3       However, the offense is a Level 6 felony if the pecuniary loss (or  
 4       property damage; in the case of an agricultural operation or a scientific  
 5       research facility) is at least seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750) but less  
 6       than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000); and a Level 5 felony if the  
 7       pecuniary loss (or property damage; in the case of an agricultural  
 8       operation or a scientific research facility) is at least fifty thousand  
 9       dollars (\$50,000).

10       (c) A person who recklessly; knowingly; or intentionally damages  
 11       property:

12           (1) during the dealing or manufacture of or attempted dealing or  
 13           manufacture of a controlled substance; and

14           (2) by means of a fire or an explosion;

15       commits controlled substances criminal mischief; a Level 6 felony.  
 16       However, the offense is a Level 5 felony if the offense results in  
 17       moderate bodily injury to any person other than a defendant.

18       (d) If a person is convicted of an offense under this section that  
 19       involves the use of graffiti; the court may; in addition to any other  
 20       penalty; order that the person's driver's license be suspended or  
 21       invalidated by the bureau of motor vehicles for not more than one (1)  
 22       year.

23       (e) The court may rescind an order for suspension or invalidation  
 24       under subsection (d) and allow the person to receive a license or permit  
 25       before the period of suspension or invalidation ends if the court  
 26       determines that the person has removed or painted over the graffiti or  
 27       has made other suitable restitution.

28       (f) For purposes of this section; "pecuniary loss" includes:

29           (1) the total costs incurred in inspecting; cleaning; and  
 30           decontaminating property contaminated by a pollutant; and

31           (2) a reasonable estimate of all additional costs not already  
 32           incurred under subdivision (1) that are necessary to inspect; clean;  
 33           and decontaminate property contaminated by a pollutant; to the  
 34           extent that the property has not already been:

35               (A) cleaned;

36               (B) decontaminated; or

37               (C) both cleaned and decontaminated.

38       The term includes inspection; cleaning; or decontamination conducted  
 39       by a person certified under IC 16-19-3-1.

40       SECTION 14. IC 35-43-1-2.1 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY  
 41       1, 2026]. Sec. 2-1: (a) This section does not apply to the following:

42           (1) A person who acts in a proper and acceptable manner as



1 authorized by IC 14-21 other than a person who disturbs the earth  
 2 for an agricultural purpose under the exemption to IC 14-21 that  
 3 is provided in IC 14-21-1-24.

4 (2) A person who acts in a proper and acceptable manner as  
 5 authorized by IC 23-14.

6 (b) A person who recklessly, knowingly, or intentionally:

7 (1) damages a cemetery, a burial ground (as defined in  
 8 IC 14-21-1-3), or a facility used for memorializing the dead;

9 (2) damages the grounds owned or rented by a cemetery or facility  
 10 used for memorializing the dead; or

11 (3) disturbs, defaces, or damages a cemetery monument, grave  
 12 marker, grave artifact, grave ornamentation, or cemetery  
 13 enclosure;

14 commits cemetery mischief; a Class A misdemeanor. However, the  
 15 offense is a Level 6 felony if the pecuniary loss is at least seven  
 16 hundred fifty dollars (\$750) but less than fifty thousand dollars  
 17 (\$50,000); and a Level 5 felony if the pecuniary loss is at least fifty  
 18 thousand dollars (\$50,000).

19 SECTION 15. IC 35-43-1-2.3 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY  
 20 1, 2026]. Sec. 2-3: A person who, without the consent of the owner of  
 21 the property, recklessly, knowingly, or intentionally damages or  
 22 defaces:

23 (1) a locomotive, a railroad car, a train, or equipment of a railroad  
 24 company being operated on a railroad right-of-way;

25 (2) a part of any railroad signal system, train control system,  
 26 centralized dispatching system, or highway railroad grade  
 27 crossing warning signal on a railroad right-of-way owned, leased,  
 28 or operated by a railroad company; or

29 (3) any rail, switch, roadbed, viaduct, bridge, trestle, culvert, or  
 30 embankment on a right-of-way owned, leased, or operated by a  
 31 railroad company;

32 commits railroad mischief; a Level 6 felony. However, the offense is a  
 33 Level 5 felony if the offense results in serious bodily injury to another  
 34 person and a Level 2 felony if the offense results in the death of another  
 35 person.

36 SECTION 16. IC 35-43-1-3 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,  
 37 2026]. Sec. 3: (a) As used in this section:

38 "Cave" means any naturally occurring subterranean cavity,  
 39 including a cavern, pit, pothole, sinkhole, well, grotto, and tunnel  
 40 whether or not it has a natural entrance.

41 "Owner" means the person who holds title to or is in possession of  
 42 the land on or under which a cave is located; or his lessee, or agent.



"Scientific purposes" means exploration and research conducted by persons affiliated with recognized scientific organizations with the intent to advance knowledge and with the intent to publish the results of said exploration or research in an appropriate medium.

(b) A person who knowingly and without the express consent of the cave owner:

(1) disfigures, destroys, or removes any stalagmite, stalactite, or other naturally occurring mineral deposit or formation, or archeological or paleontological artifact in a cave, for other than scientific purposes;

(2) breaks any lock, gate, fence, or other structure designed to control or prevent access to a cave; or

(3) destroys, injures, removes, or harasses any cave-dwelling animal for other than scientific purposes;

commits a Class A misdemeanor.

(c) A person who knowingly and without the express consent of the cave owner deposits trash, rubbish, chemicals, or other litter in a cave commits a Class C infraction. However, the violation is a Class C misdemeanor if it is committed knowingly or intentionally and the person has a prior unrelated adjudication or conviction for a violation of this section within the previous five (5) years.

SECTION 17. IC 35-45-3-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.231-2007, SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) A person who recklessly, knowingly, or intentionally places or leaves refuse on property of another person, except in a container provided for refuse, commits littering, a Class B infraction. However, the offense is a Class A infraction if the refuse:

(1) is placed or left in, on, or within one hundred (100) feet of a body of water that is under the jurisdiction of the ~~(1)~~ department of natural resources or ~~(2)~~ United States Army Corps of Engineers; or

**(2) is placed in a cave (as defined in IC 35-43-1-2).**

Notwithstanding IC 34-28-5-4(a), a judgment of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) shall be imposed for each Class A infraction committed under this section.

**(b) A person who:**

**(1) recklessly, knowingly, or intentionally violates subsection (a)(2); and**

**(2) has a prior unrelated conviction or adjudication for a violation of subsection (a)(2) within the previous five (5) years;**

**commits a Class C infraction.**





1        ~~(b)~~ **(c)** As used in this section, "refuse" includes solid and semisolid  
 2 wastes, dead animals, and offal.

3        ~~(c)~~ **(d)** Evidence that littering was committed from a moving vehicle  
 4 other than a public conveyance constitutes prima facie evidence that it  
 5 was committed by the operator of that vehicle.

6        SECTION 18. IC 35-46-10-3 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY  
 7 1, 2026]. Sec. 3. A person who recklessly, knowingly, or intentionally  
 8 damages or defaces property of a critical infrastructure facility commits  
 9 critical infrastructure facility mischief, a Level 5 felony. However, the  
 10 offense is a Level 4 felony if:

11        (1) the pecuniary loss is at least fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000);  
 12        or

13        (2) the damage causes a substantial interruption or impairment of  
 14 a critical infrastructure utility service rendered to the public.

15        SECTION 19. IC 35-46-10-4, AS ADDED BY P.L.276-2019,  
 16 SECTION 7, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 17 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. Except as provided in IC 35-50-2, if a person  
 18 commits the offense of conspiracy (as described in IC 35-41-5-2) to  
 19 commit an offense described in:

20        (1) section 2 ~~or~~ 3 of this chapter; or

21        (2) **IC 35-43-1-2 (criminal vandalism) involving a critical**  
 22 **infrastructure facility;**

23 with a person who commits an offense described under section 2 ~~or~~ 3  
 24 of this chapter **or IC 35-43-1-2 (criminal vandalism) involving a**  
 25 **critical infrastructure facility**, the conspiring person shall be  
 26 punished by a fine not to exceed one hundred thousand dollars  
 27 (\$100,000).

28        SECTION 20. IC 35-46-10-5, AS ADDED BY P.L.276-2019,  
 29 SECTION 7, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 30 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. (a) A person aggrieved by a violation under:

31        (1) this chapter; or

32        (2) **IC 35-43-1-2 (criminal vandalism) involving a critical**  
 33 **infrastructure facility;**

34 may recover damages sustained under IC 34-24-3-1.

35        (b) Any person that compensates, provides consideration to, or  
 36 remunerates a person for committing an offense under:

37        (1) ~~sections~~ **section 2** 3; or 4 of this chapter; or

38        (2) **IC 35-43-1-2 (criminal vandalism) involving a critical**  
 39 **infrastructure facility;**

40 may be held liable for civil damages imposed under this chapter.

