

SENATE BILL No. 271

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 25-37.5-1; IC 34-24.

Synopsis: Sale of telecommunications equipment. Specifies documentation requirements for the: (1) sale of telecommunications network equipment; and (2) purchase of telecommunications network equipment by a valuable metal dealer. Provides that a person who sells or attempts to sell telecommunications network equipment; or (2) valuable metal dealer who purchases or attempts to purchase telecommunications network equipment; in violation of these requirements commits a Class A infraction. Provides that a person who: (1) knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with Indiana law governing valuable metal dealers; and (2) sells stolen telecommunications network equipment; commits a Level 6 felony. Allows seizure and civil forfeiture of a vehicle that is used in the commission of a theft of valuable metal under specified circumstances. Provides that a person who suffers a pecuniary loss as a result of a violation of Indiana law governing valuable metal dealers may bring a civil action for specified damages against the person who caused the loss.

Effective: July 1, 2026.

Koch

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



Introduced

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

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

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

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

SENATE BILL No. 271

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning professions and occupations.

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

1 SECTION 1. IC 25-37.5-1-0.7 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
2 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
3 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 0.7. (a) **As used in this section,**
4 **"burned wire"** means coated metal wire from which the protective
5 coating has been removed by smelting, burning, or melting.

6 (b) **As used in this chapter, "telecommunications network**
7 **equipment"** means:

8 (1) **wire used in wireline communications service, including:**
9 (A) **fiber;**
10 (B) **sheathed copper cable; and**
11 (C) **twisted-pair wire without sheathing;**
12 **including burned wire; and**
13 (2) **any component of equipment or infrastructure used to**
14 **provide telecommunications service, including:**
15 (A) **tower components;**
16 (B) **antennae;**
17 (C) **bus bars; and**



(D) copper ground support structures;
and all associated aerial or ground based cable lines or equipment
used as part of a telecommunications or broadband network.

SECTION 2. IC 25-37.5-1-7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.70-2021, SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7. (a) A valuable metal dealer who fails to comply with this chapter commits a Class A infraction.

(b) A valuable metal dealer who:

- (1) knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with this chapter; and
- (2) purchases stolen valuable metal;

mits concealing a valuable metal purchase, a Level 6 felony.

(c) A:

(1) person who sells or attempts to sell telecommunications network equipment; or
(2) valuable metal dealer who purchases or attempts to purchase telecommunications network equipment; violation of this chapter commits a Class A infraction.

(d)

- (1) knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with this chapter; and
- (2) sells stolen telecommunications network equipment; misconcealment of the sale of telecommunications network equipment, a Level 6 felony.

SECTION 3. IC 25-37.5-1-11 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 11. (a) A person may not sell or attempt to sell, and a valuable metal dealer may not purchase or attempt to purchase, telecommunications network equipment in any amount, unless the seller provides the valuable metal dealer with:

(1) a signed certificate of ownership stating that the seller is the owner of the telecommunications network equipment and is entitled to sell the telecommunications network equipment;
(2) a signed certificate from the owner of the telecommunications network equipment stating that:

- (A) the signer is the owner of the telecommunications network equipment; and
- (B) the seller is authorized to sell the telecommunications

network equipment on behalf of the owner; or
(3) an affidavit executed by a law enforcement officer attesting to the officer's reasonable belief that the seller came



1 **into possession of the telecommunications network equipment**
2 **legally.**

3 **(b) A valuable metal dealer that purchases telecommunications**
4 **network equipment must maintain a copy of the certificate or**
5 **affidavit provided by the seller of the telecommunications network**
6 **equipment under subsection (a)(1), (a)(2), or (a)(3).**

7 SECTION 4. IC 34-24-1-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.186-2025,
8 SECTION 184, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
9 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) The following may be seized:

10 (1) All vehicles (as defined by IC 35-31.5-2-346), if they are used
11 or are intended for use by the person or persons in possession of
12 them to transport or in any manner to facilitate the transportation
13 of the following:

14 (A) A controlled substance for the purpose of committing,
15 attempting to commit, or conspiring to commit any of the
16 following:

17 (i) Dealing in or manufacturing cocaine or a narcotic drug
18 (IC 35-48-4-1).

19 (ii) Dealing in methamphetamine (IC 35-48-4-1.1).

20 (iii) Manufacturing methamphetamine (IC 35-48-4-1.2).

21 (iv) Dealing in a schedule I, II, or III controlled substance
22 (IC 35-48-4-2).

23 (v) Dealing in a schedule IV controlled substance (IC
24 35-48-4-3).

25 (vi) Dealing in a schedule V controlled substance (IC
26 35-48-4-4).

27 (vii) Dealing in a counterfeit substance (IC 35-48-4-5).

28 (viii) Possession of cocaine or a narcotic drug (IC
29 35-48-4-6).

30 (ix) Possession of methamphetamine (IC 35-48-4-6.1).

31 (x) Dealing in paraphernalia (IC 35-48-4-8.5).

32 (xi) Dealing in marijuana, hash oil, hashish, or salvia (IC
33 35-48-4-10).

34 (xii) An offense under IC 35-48-4 involving a synthetic drug
35 (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-321), a synthetic drug lookalike
36 substance (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-321.5 (before its
37 repeal on July 1, 2019)) under IC 35-48-4-10.5 (before its
38 repeal on July 1, 2019), a controlled substance analog (as
39 defined in IC 35-48-1.1-8), or a substance represented to be
40 a controlled substance (as described in IC 35-48-4-4.6).

41 (B) Any stolen (IC 35-43-4-2 or IC 35-43-4-2.2) or converted
42 property (IC 35-43-4-3) if the retail or repurchase value of that



property is one hundred dollars (\$100) or more.

(C) Any hazardous waste in violation of IC 13-30-10-1.5.

(D) A bomb (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-31) or weapon of mass destruction (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-354) used to commit, used in an attempt to commit, or used in a conspiracy to commit a felony terrorist offense (as defined in IC 35-50-2-18) or an offense under IC 35-47 as part of or in furtherance of an act of terrorism (as defined by IC 35-31.5-2-329).

(2) All money, negotiable instruments, securities, weapons, communications devices, or any property used to commit, used in an attempt to commit, or used in a conspiracy to commit a felony terrorist offense (as defined in IC 35-50-2-18) or an offense under IC 35-47 as part of or in furtherance of an act of terrorism or commonly used as consideration for a violation of IC 35-48-4 (other than items subject to forfeiture under IC 16-42-20-5 or IC 16-6-8.5-5.1, before its repeal):

- (A) furnished or intended to be furnished by any person in exchange for an act that is in violation of a criminal statute;
- (B) used to facilitate any violation of a criminal statute; or

(C) traceable as proceeds of the violation of a criminal statute.
(3) Any portion of real or personal property purchased with money that is traceable as a proceed of a violation of a criminal statute.

(4) A vehicle that is used by a person to:

) A vehicle that is used by a person to:

(A) commit, attempt to commit, or conspire to commit;

(A) commit, attempt to commit, or
(B) facilitate the commission of; or

(B) facilitate the commission of, or
(C) escape from the commission of;

(C) escape from the commission of, murder (IC 35-42-1-1), dealing in a controlled substance resulting in death (IC 35-42-1-1.5), kidnapping (IC 35-42-3-2), criminal confinement (IC 35-42-3-3), rape (IC 35-42-4-1), child molesting (IC 35-42-4-3), or child exploitation (IC 35-42-4-4), **or a theft to which IC 35-43-4-2(a)(2)(B) applies, or** an offense under IC 35-47 as part of or in furtherance of an act of terrorism.

(5) Real property owned by a person who uses it to commit any of the following as a Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, Level 4, or Level 5 felony:

- (A) Dealing in or manufacturing cocaine or a narcotic drug (IC 35-48-4-1).
- (B) Dealing in methamphetamine (IC 35-48-4-1.1).
- (C) Manufacturing methamphetamine (IC 35-48-4-1.2).
- (D) Dealing in a schedule I, II, or III controlled substance (IC



1 35-48-4-2).

2 (E) Dealing in a schedule IV controlled substance (IC

3 35-48-4-3).

4 (F) Dealing in marijuana, hash oil, hashish, or salvia (IC

5 35-48-4-10).

6 (G) Dealing in a synthetic drug (as defined in

7 IC 35-31.5-2-321) or synthetic drug lookalike substance (as

8 defined in IC 35-31.5-2-321.5 (before its repeal on July 1,

9 2019)) under IC 35-48-4-10.5 (before its repeal on July 1,

10 2019).

11 (H) Dealing in a controlled substance resulting in death (IC

12 35-42-1-1.5).

13 (6) Equipment and recordings used by a person to commit fraud

14 under IC 35-43-5.

15 (7) Recordings sold, rented, transported, or possessed by a person

16 in violation of IC 24-4-10.

17 (8) Property (as defined by IC 35-31.5-2-253) or an enterprise (as

18 defined by IC 35-45-6-1) that is the object of a corrupt business

19 influence violation (IC 35-45-6-2).

20 (9) Unlawful telecommunications devices (as defined in

21 IC 35-45-13-6) and plans, instructions, or publications used to

22 commit an offense under IC 35-45-13.

23 (10) Any equipment, including computer equipment and cellular

24 telephones, used for or intended for use in preparing,

25 photographing, recording, videotaping, digitizing, printing,

26 copying, or disseminating matter in violation of IC 35-42-4.

27 (11) Destructive devices used, possessed, transported, or sold in

28 violation of IC 35-47.5.

29 (12) Tobacco products that are sold in violation of IC 24-3-5,

30 tobacco products that a person attempts to sell in violation of

31 IC 24-3-5, and other personal property owned and used by a

32 person to facilitate a violation of IC 24-3-5.

33 (13) Property used by a person to commit counterfeiting or

34 forgery in violation of IC 35-43-5-2.

35 (14) After December 31, 2005, if a person is convicted of an

36 offense specified in IC 25-26-14-26(b) or IC 35-43-10, the

37 following real or personal property:

38 (A) Property used or intended to be used to commit, facilitate,

39 or promote the commission of the offense.

40 (B) Property constituting, derived from, or traceable to the

41 gross proceeds that the person obtained directly or indirectly

42 as a result of the offense.



1 (15) Except as provided in subsection (e), a vehicle used by a
2 person who operates the vehicle:

3 (A) while intoxicated, in violation of IC 9-30-5-1 through
4 IC 9-30-5-5, if in the previous five (5) years the person has two
5 (2) or more prior unrelated convictions for operating a motor
6 vehicle while intoxicated in violation of IC 9-30-5-1 through
7 IC 9-30-5-5; or

8 (B) on a highway while the person's driving privileges are
9 suspended in violation of IC 9-24-19-2 through IC 9-24-19-3,
10 if in the previous five (5) years the person has two (2) or more
11 prior unrelated convictions for operating a vehicle while
12 intoxicated in violation of IC 9-30-5-1 through IC 9-30-5-5.

13 If a court orders the seizure of a vehicle under this subdivision,
14 the court shall transmit an order to the bureau of motor vehicles
15 recommending that the bureau not permit a vehicle to be
16 registered in the name of the person whose vehicle was seized
17 until the person possesses a current driving license (as defined in
18 IC 9-13-2-41).

19 (16) The following real or personal property:

20 (A) Property used or intended to be used to commit, facilitate,
21 or promote the commission of an offense specified in
22 IC 23-14-48-9, IC 30-2-9-7(b), IC 30-2-10-9(b), or
23 IC 30-2-13-38(f).

24 (B) Property constituting, derived from, or traceable to the
25 gross proceeds that a person obtains directly or indirectly as a
26 result of an offense specified in IC 23-14-48-9, IC 30-2-9-7(b),
27 IC 30-2-10-9(b), or IC 30-2-13-38(f).

28 (17) Real or personal property, including a vehicle, that is used by
29 a person to:

30 (A) commit, attempt to commit, or conspire to commit;

31 (B) facilitate the commission of; or

32 (C) escape from the commission of;

33 a violation of IC 35-42-3.5-1 through IC 35-42-3.5-1.4 (human
34 trafficking) or IC 35-45-4-4 (promoting prostitution).

35 (18) A signal jammer (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-305.5) that is
36 used by a person to commit unlawful use of a signal jammer
37 under IC 35-45-2-6.

38 (b) A vehicle used by any person as a common or contract carrier in
39 the transaction of business as a common or contract carrier is not
40 subject to seizure under this section, unless it can be proven by a
41 preponderance of the evidence that the owner of the vehicle knowingly
42 permitted the vehicle to be used to engage in conduct that subjects it to



1 seizure under subsection (a).

2 (c) Equipment under subsection (a)(10) may not be seized unless it
3 can be proven by a preponderance of the evidence that the owner of the
4 equipment knowingly permitted the equipment to be used to engage in
5 conduct that subjects it to seizure under subsection (a)(10).

6 (d) Money, negotiable instruments, securities, weapons,
7 communications devices, or any property commonly used as
8 consideration for a violation of IC 35-48-4 found near or on a person
9 who is committing, attempting to commit, or conspiring to commit any
10 of the following offenses shall be admitted into evidence in an action
11 under this chapter as *prima facie* evidence that the money, negotiable
12 instrument, security, or other thing of value is property that has been
13 used or was to have been used to facilitate the violation of a criminal
14 statute or is the proceeds of the violation of a criminal statute:

15 (1) IC 35-42-1-1.5 (dealing in a controlled substance resulting in
16 death).

17 (2) IC 35-48-4-1 (dealing in or manufacturing cocaine or a
18 narcotic drug).

19 (3) IC 35-48-4-1.1 (dealing in methamphetamine).

20 (4) IC 35-48-4-1.2 (manufacturing methamphetamine).

21 (5) IC 35-48-4-2 (dealing in a schedule I, II, or III controlled
22 substance).

23 (6) IC 35-48-4-3 (dealing in a schedule IV controlled substance).

24 (7) IC 35-48-4-4 (dealing in a schedule V controlled substance)
25 as a Level 4 felony.

26 (8) IC 35-48-4-6 (possession of cocaine or a narcotic drug) as a
27 Level 3, Level 4, or Level 5 felony.

28 (9) IC 35-48-4-6.1 (possession of methamphetamine) as a Level
29 3, Level 4, or Level 5 felony.

30 (10) IC 35-48-4-10 (dealing in marijuana, hash oil, hashish, or
31 salvia) as a Level 5 felony.

32 (11) IC 35-48-4-10.5 (before its repeal on July 1, 2019) (dealing
33 in a synthetic drug or synthetic drug lookalike substance) as a
34 Level 5 felony or Level 6 felony (or as a Class C felony or Class
35 D felony under IC 35-48-4-10 before its amendment in 2013).

36 (e) A vehicle operated by a person who is not:

37 (1) an owner of the vehicle; or

38 (2) the spouse of the person who owns the vehicle;

39 is not subject to seizure under subsection (a)(15) unless it can be
40 proven by a preponderance of the evidence that the owner of the
41 vehicle knowingly permitted the vehicle to be used to engage in
42 conduct that subjects it to seizure under subsection (a)(15).



1 SECTION 5. IC 34-24-3-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.276-2019,
2 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. If a person has an unpaid claim on a liability
4 that is covered by IC 24-4.6-5 or suffers a pecuniary loss as a result of
5 a violation of **IC 25-37.5**, IC 35-43, IC 35-42-3-3, IC 35-42-3-4,
6 IC 35-45-9, or IC 35-46-10, the person may bring a civil action against
7 the person who caused the loss for the following:

8 (1) An amount not to exceed three (3) times:
9 (A) the actual damages of the person suffering the loss, in the
10 case of a liability that is not covered by IC 24-4.6-5; or
11 (B) the total pump price of the motor fuel received, in the case
12 of a liability that is covered by IC 24-4.6-5.
13 (2) The costs of the action.
14 (3) A reasonable attorney's fee.
15 (4) Actual travel expenses that are not otherwise reimbursed
16 under subdivisions (1) through (3) and are incurred by the person
17 suffering loss to:
18 (A) have the person suffering loss or an employee or agent of
19 that person file papers and attend court proceedings related to
20 the recovery of a judgment under this chapter; or
21 (B) provide witnesses to testify in court proceedings related to
22 the recovery of a judgment under this chapter.
23 (5) A reasonable amount to compensate the person suffering loss
24 for time used to:
25 (A) file papers and attend court proceedings related to the
26 recovery of a judgment under this chapter; or
27 (B) travel to and from activities described in clause (A).
28 (6) Actual direct and indirect expenses incurred by the person
29 suffering loss to compensate employees and agents for time used
30 to:
31 (A) file papers and attend court proceedings related to the
32 recovery of a judgment under this chapter; or
33 (B) travel to and from activities described in clause (A).
34 (7) All other reasonable costs of collection.

